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BMTC employees' health evaluated

BENGALURU
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CMRS inspects metro stretch

BENGALURU
The inspection of the Kengeri-Challaghatta stretch of the Namma Metro was conducted on Friday by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for the Southern Circle. » PAGE 3

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Cauvery dispute: CWMA upholds panel's decision

It endorses Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's recommendation asking Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs to T.N. till October 15; Siddaramaiah govt. to file review petitions before SC, CWMA

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Friday upheld the decision of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) asking Karnataka to release 3,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) to Tamil Nadu till October 15.

It also told Karnataka to make good the shortfall of 0.71 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) that arose during the 15-day period that ended on September 27. The CWRC took its decision at its meeting on September 26.

However, the Siddaramaiah-led Karnataka government has decided to file review petitions before the Supreme Court and CWMA on Saturday. It has also decided to form an advisory panel to collect data and provide advice to the government on the issue.

Tensions rise: Protest held at the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu boundary near Hosur, over the Cauvery issue, on Friday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

After the Friday's meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, CWMA chairman Saumitra Kumar Haldar told *The Hindu* from New Delhi that barring Karnataka, representatives of the other basin States joined the discussion through videoconference.

As for Tamil Nadu, the officiating Principal Secretary for Water Resources, K. Manivasan, attended the meeting online, while Cauvery Technical Cell chairperson R. Subramanian was personally present in New Delhi.

As in the past, there was an intense exchange of views between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. While the former wanted continuous release of water and demanded 12,500 cusecs, the latter referred to difficulties in continuing with the supply, apart from pointing out that it was only dependent upon the southwest monsoon, which played truant this year, but Tamil Nadu could fall back on northeast monsoon which would set in during the third or fourth week of October.

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Bandh evokes good response in Bengaluru, Cauvery basin districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka bandh called over the inter-State Cauvery water dispute passed off peacefully on Friday, with the State capital Bengaluru and districts in the Cauvery basin region seeing the most impact. The bandh called by the umbrella organisation Kannada Okkoota saw lesser resonance in Coastal and North Karnataka districts.

In Bengaluru, roads were deserted with traffic to the bare minimum even in the usually choked junctions. A majority of shops and hotels remained closed, while autorickshaws and cabs stayed off the road barring a few. Namma Metro services remained largely unaffected and the BMTC ran a smaller fleet of buses. Most people stayed indoors till 6 p.m. and normal activity resumed after that. There were protests in various parts of the city by Kannada groups and farmers' organisations, which eventually converged at Freedom Park as the police detained and dropped them off there.

The bandh evoked a good response in the Cauvery heartland districts of Mysuru and Mandya. Life came to a standstill in the two districts with shops and commercial establishments remaining closed, KSRTC and private buses almost entirely staying off the road, and schools and colleges declaring a holiday.

Shutdown: A Namma Metro train passing by at Nayandanahalli junction during the bandh in Bengaluru on Friday when roads were mostly deserted. K. MURALI KUMAR

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Medals galore

India won eight medals on Friday to take its tally to 33 at the Hangzhou Asian Games

THE PODIUM FINISHERS

Gold

- **Palak** (10m air pistol)
- **Aishwary Pratap**, **Swapnil Kusale** and **Akhil Sheoran** (men's 50m rifle 3 position team)

Silver

- Esha Singh (10m air pistol individual)
- Esha Singh, Palak and Divya Thadigol (10m air pistol team)
- Aishwary Pratap (men's 50m rifle 3 position individual)
- **Saketh Myneni** and **Ramkumar Ramanathan** (men's doubles tennis)

Bronze

- **Kiran Baliyan** (women's shot put)
- Joshna Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna, Anahat Singh (squash women's team)

Swapnil Kusale, Aishwary Pratap and Akhil Sheoran

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni

Palak

Kiran Baliyan

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Twin suicide attacks in Pakistan kill 57

Reuters
QUETTA/PESHAWAR

At least 57 people, including seven children, were killed in two suicide bomb attacks in Pakistan on Friday, police and health officials said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, from which the death toll could climb, with many people seriously injured and others having been trapped beneath the wreckage.

In the first blast, in Mastung in the southwestern province of Balochistan, the bomber detonated his explosives near a police vehicle where people were gathering for a procession to mark Prophet Mohammad's birthday, senior police official Munir Ahmed said. At least 52 people were killed and 58 injured in the attack, according to district health official Abdul Rasheed.

The second attack, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killed five people at a mosque, according to rescuers. The roof collapsed, broadcaster Geo News said, trapping about 30 to 40 people under the rubble.

Under onslaught: Volunteers carry a blast victim on a stretcher at a hospital in Quetta following the attack on Friday. AFP

Returns on 5 year RDs hiked

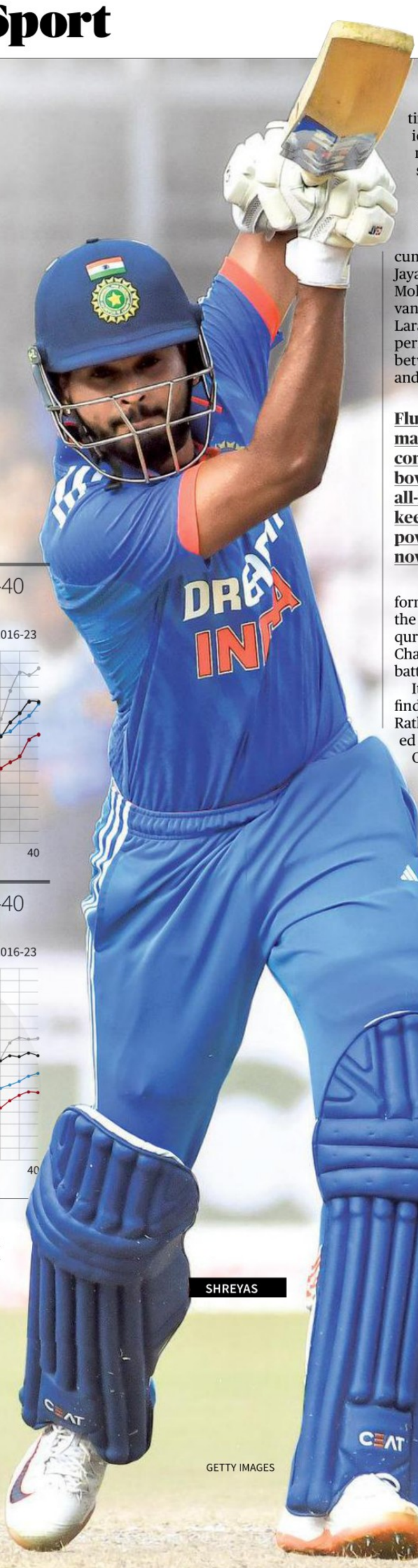
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has raised the returns on five-year recurring deposits from 6.5% to 6.7% for the October to December 2023 quarter, but left returns on all other small savings schemes unchanged. While this constitutes the fifth successive hike in the returns on select small savings schemes, the PPF rate has not been hiked since January 2019.

For the previous quarter, the government had raised interest rates on three of 12 small savings schemes by 10 to 30 basis points. The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme and the National Savings Certificate will continue to yield the highest returns among small savings instruments,

Why the No. 4 conundrum isn't India-specific

It is not so much that India has struggled to replace Yuvraj. Rather, the Powerplay rule changes have transformed the ODI game and made the classic No. 4 obsolete. The best teams have pursued new efficiencies, including fluid middle-orders — India's strategy is no exception



Kartikeya Date

India captain Rohit Sharma recently observed that the No. 4 position in the ODI batting order had been a problem for the team since Yuvraj Singh's retirement.

If we consider the frequency of appearances, India has had four mainstays at No. 4 in its ODI history: Dilip Vengsarkar in the 1980s, Mohammad Azharuddin in the 1990s, Rahul Dravid in the 2000s, and Yuvraj in the 2010s.

In the 2023 World Cup, India's No. 4 will most probably be Shreyas Iyer (fitness permitting), to be followed by the wicketkeeper (either K.L. Rahul or Ishan Kishan, depending on whether a right- or a left-hander is preferred), and two all-rounders (Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya). The reserve middle-order option is Suryakumar Yadav.

A global problem

The problem at No. 4 is not India-specific. For instance, in the 2019 World Cup, England used three different players in the slot, while Australia used four. New Zealand and Bangladesh had the most stable No. 4 bat in the tournament. India's much publicised problems at No. 4 in that edition were not unprecedented either. It used five different batters at No. 4 in the 2003 World Cup. The nature of the uncertainty surrounding the position, however, did change from 2003 to 2019.

The 2003 World Cup was the last one played before the Powerplay (PP) rules were modified in 2005. In the six-year period, starting from the 1999 World Cup to 2005, 23.4% of deliveries (or, 11.4 of the 50 overs) in ODIs were delivered by a player who batted in the top six. Since the PP rules were last modified in 2015, only 6.5 of the 50 overs are being delivered by a top-six batter.

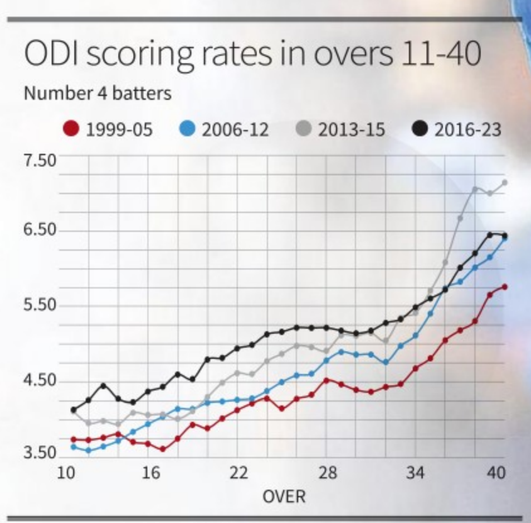
In October 2012, the ICC decided to experiment with a new restriction, which allowed at most four fielders outside the circle during non-PP overs, a reduction from five. This made it increasingly difficult for the part-timer to fill in the fifth bowler's overs.

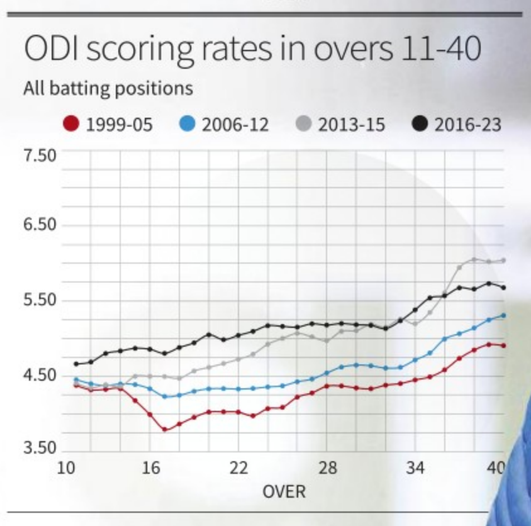
Yuvraj averaged between six and seven overs per ODI in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and had a superb all-round Player of the Tournament performance in India's 2011 World Cup campaign. After the rule change in October 2012, Yuvraj played 29 times for India, in 2013 and 2017, and bowled only 31 overs.

The fielding restrictions were relaxed by the Anil Kumble-led ICC Cricket Committee following the 2015 World Cup, allowing an extra fielder on the boundary for the innings' last 10 overs, but this did not lead to the return of the part-time bowler.

Absent these changes, which began in 2005, it is easy to see Rohit Sharma, Steven Smith, Joe Root and other top-order batters contributing five or six overs, in the manner Sachin Tendulkar, Mark Waugh and Aravinda de Silva did in the 1990s.

Since 2016, the new No. 4 role has perhaps been best embodied by Eoin Morgan. The top No. 4s in this period score at better than 85 runs per 100 balls faced, and the best score at a run a ball





The changing middle overs

A second effect of the fielding restrictions has been on the scoring rates in the middle overs. In the period from 1999 to 2005, 129 runs were scored off the bat (137 by all means), on average, from over 11 to 40 in an ODI.

In the period after 2016, this has increased to 155 runs off the bat (161 by all means). Teams lost, on average, 3.9 wickets between over 11 and 40 in the 1999-2005 period. This has increased to 4.1 wickets since 2016.

As the charts show, before the PP era (pre-2005), the middle overs were a period of consolidation for the batting side in which the scoring-rate was sacrificed for a few overs. With five fielders permitted on the boundary, a middle-overs stalemate ensued – the bowling side used up its fourth and fifth bowlers and the batters milked whatever runs were available against defensive fields.

This motivated teams to use a steady accumulator at No. 4. Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mahela Jayawardene, Damien Martyn, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Yousuf, Jacques Kallis, Michael Bevan, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Roger Twose, Brian Lara and Kumar Sangakkara played this role to perfection in the early 2000s. They scored at between 70 and 80 runs per 100 balls faced, and were highly consistent.

Fluid middle-orders made up of a combination of bowling all-rounders, keeper-batters, and power-hitters are now the norm

Since 2016, the new No. 4 role has perhaps been best embodied by Eoin Morgan for England. The top No. 4s in this period score at better than 85 runs per 100 balls faced, and the best score at a run a ball. They also perform a secondary role – most commonly that of the wicketkeeper. Mohammad Rizwan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shai Hope, Jos Buttler, Dinesh Chandimal and Rahul have all kept wicket and batted at four.

It is not so much that India has struggled to find a No. 4 to replace Yuvraj, as Rohit put it. Rather, the rule changes in 2015 have eliminated the classic No. 4 we have known for much of ODI history. The PP rules have eliminated the middle-overs stalemate and forced teams to seek new efficiencies with bat and ball. Fluid middle-orders made up of a combination of bowling all-rounders, keeper-batters, and power-hitters are now the norm. India has pursued a similar strategy with its selection.

The significance of match-ups

One final aspect of this fluid middle-order is worth the reader's attention. The elimination of the stalemate makes favourable match-ups significantly more beneficial. For example, it is advantageous for a side to have a mixture of left- and right-handers in the middle order, just as it is advantageous for a bowling side to have bowlers who spin the ball away from both.

India's pursuit of Ishan as a left-handed middle-order option should be seen in the light of the side recently losing almost all its left-handed batting. Rishabh Pant was injured in a terrible car accident, and Shikhar Dhawan has made way at age 37 for the phenomenal Shubman Gill.

The ODI game has changed because its rules have changed. The best teams have pursued the most efficient approaches for exploiting the opportunities offered by the new rules. India has been no exception in this regard. Its middle-order, from four to seven, is likely to consist of the wicketkeeper, two bowlers, and a batter. All these players can score quickly, and the bowlers among them are far better than the part-timers from the early 2000s.

It is not so much that India has struggled to replace Yuvraj. Rather, it has been a question of finding the correct type of players to compete under the contemporary ODI rules.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,795	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,535	17
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,280	21
4	Holger Rune	20	4,710	21
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,615	23
6	Andrey Rublev	25	4,515	25
7	Jannik Sinner	22	4,465	22
8	Taylor Fritz	25	3,955	26
9	Casper Ruud	24	3,560	24
10	Alexander Zverev	26	3,280	22
11	Frances Tiafoe	25	2,690	22
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,685	24
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,660	25
14	Karen Khachanov	27	2,385	20
15	Felix Auger-Aliassime	23	2,340	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 161 ▼ 2 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 426 ▼ 19 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,266	17
2	Iga Swiatek	22	8,195	19
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,165	20
4	Jessica Pegula	29	5,755	19
5	Elena Rybakina	24	5,665	18
6	Maria Sakkari	28	4,360	25
7	Ons Jabeur	29	3,875	19
8	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,830	17
9	Karolina Muchova	27	3,765	18
10	Caroline Garcia	29	3,335	26
11	Barbora Krejcikova	27	3,165	21
12	Madison Keys	28	2,940	21
13	Daria Kasatkina	26	2,790	25
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,695	17
15	Belinda Bencic	26	2,655	21

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 198 ▼ 14 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 228 ▲ No change

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	400	13
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	223	2
3	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	190	0
4	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	174	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	150	1
6	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	135	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	115	0
8	George Russell	Mercedes	115	0
9	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	57	0
10	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	47	0
11	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	46	0
12	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	38	0
13	Alex Albon	Williams	21	0
14	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	9	0
15	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	6	0
16	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	4	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	3	0
18	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	3	0
19	Liam Lawson	AlphaTauri	2	0
20	Logan Sargeant	Williams	0	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	623	15
2	Mercedes	305	0
3	Ferrari	285	1
4	Aston Martin	221	0
5	McLaren	172	0
6	Alpine	84	0
7	Williams	21	0
8	Haas	12	0
9	Alfa Romeo	10	0
10	AlphaTauri	5	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	107,455	15
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	86,431	18
3	Kodai Naraoka	81,315	22
4	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	79,778	16
5	Jonatan Christie	78,171	17
6	Shi Yu Qi	76,024	20
7	Prannoy H. S.	72,437	20
8	Li Shi Feng	71,748	22
9	Loh Kean Yew	71,062	22
10	Anders Antonsen	64,510	16
11	Lu Guang Zu	61,860	20
12	Kenta Nishimoto	60,507	24
13	Chou Tien Chen	60,317	23
14	Lakshya Sen	59,581	21
15	Kanta Tsuneyama	58,341	23

Top Indians ▶

Prannoy H. S.
Rank 7

Lakshya Sen
Rank 14

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	110,514	16
2	Akane Yamaguchi	100,717	18
3	Chen Yu Fei	92,296	15
4	Tai Tzu Ying	88,486	15
5	He Bing Jiao	83,274	17
6	Carolina Marin	80,870	18
7	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	68,341	22
8	Ratchanok Intanon	67,623	18
9	Han Yue	64,108	23
10	Beiwen Zhang	60,710	23
11	Wang Zhi Yi	59,390	18
12	Pornpawee Chochuwong	55,729	22
13	Zhang Yi Man	53,874	21
14	Mia Blichfeldt	51,959	20
15	P.V. Sindhu	51,770	18

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 15

Aakarshi Kashyap
Rank 40

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	842	947
4	Babar Azam	829	882
5	Marnus Labuschagne	826	937
6	Travis Head	818	884
7	Usman Khawaja	796	847
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
4	Stuart Broad	776	880
5	Pat Cummins	775	914
6	Shaheen Afridi	762	836
6	Ollie Robinson	762	820
8	James Anderson	761	903
9	Nathan Lyon	760	799
10	Jasprit Bumrah	756	835

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	857	898
2	Shubman Gill	847	847
3	Rassie van der Dussen	743	796
4	Harry Tector	729	729
5	Imam-ul-Haq	728	815
6	David Warner	720	880
7	Quinton de Kock	714	813
8	Heinrich Klaasen	698	709
9	Virat Kohli	694	911
10	Fakhar Zaman	692	784

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Mohammed Siraj	680	736
2	Josh Hazlewood	669	733
3	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	657	712
4	Rashid Khan	655	806
5	Trent Boult	654	775
6	Mitchell Starc	639	783
7	Adam Zampa	637	670
8	Shaheen Afridi	632	688
9	Matt Henry	626	691
10	Kuldeep Yadav	625	765

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	889	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
3	Aiden Markram	756	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	702	724
6	Dawid Malan	691	915
7	Muhammad Waseem	675	716
8	Jos Buttler	666	674
9	Aaron Finch	660	900
10	Reeza Hendricks	657	661

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	713	816
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
3	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
4	Adil Rashid	679	746
5	Fazalhaq Farooqi	677	692
6	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	745
7	Josh Hazlewood	670	806
8	Sam Curran	659	688
9	Adam Zampa	657	743
10	Akeal Hosein	655	681

Evaluation of 7,635 BMTC employees shows over 40% vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases

BMTC had, in September last year, entered into a memorandum of understanding with Jayadeva institute to get cardiac evaluation done for all its employees aged above 45

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

BMTC employees undergoing counselling and stress management sessions at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in Bengaluru.

An analysis of 7,635 Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) employees aged between 45-60 years evaluated at the State-run Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in the last eleven months has revealed that over 40% of them were vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases. Besides, 5.5% of them had an established heart disease.

The BMTC had in September last year, entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jayadeva Institute to get cardiac evaluation done for all its employees aged above 45.

"We have so far evaluated 7,635 employees in batches of 60 three days every week. The analysis has revealed that 37% of the evaluated employees had diabetes, 40% had high blood pressure, 62% were obese, 30% had high cholesterol levels, and 25% had a history of alcohol consumption. Over 70% of the evaluated employees are non-vegetarians. Smoking history is being underestimated because many are reluctant to reveal this addiction," institute director C.N. Manjunath told *The Hindu* on Friday. September 29 is observed as World Heart Day.

For the cardiac evaluation, the employees underwent a master health check-up including ECG, chest X-ray, ECHO, treadmill, blood investigations such as hemogram, Liver Function test, renal function test, lipid profile, and blood sugar test. "Another 2,500 employees are left, and we plan to cover them in the next few months," Dr. Manjunath said.

Vulnerability

Dr. Manjunath said with nearly 40% of them having diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, the risk of them developing cardiovascular diseases in the future is high. "Mandatory periodic and annual health checks are essential for these employees to ensure early intervention. Proper and early risk factor and lifestyle management is the key to prevent cardiovascular problems," the doctor said.

Attributing the findings to their stressful lifestyle, the doctor said most of the employees had not got themselves tested before and were surprised by the diagnosis of diabetes and high blood pressure.

"Due to the nature of their work, their stress levels are high. They have no time to exercise, and their eating habits are erratic due to continuous driving, overwork, and night duties. Most of all, they are exposed to pollution all through their work (both from the engine and atmosphere). Air pollution is an emerging risk factor for cardiovascular diseases," Dr. Manjunath explained.

Employees well-being

Asserting that BMTC had set a trend by caring for its employees, the doctor said the BMTC employees' health analysis should become a reference study for the government.

"Based on this, the government should take a policy decision to ensure employees aged above 45 years from all departments get an annual health check and cardiac evaluation," he said. As the non-communicable disease (NCD) burden is high, there is a need to detect NCDs in early stages for timely intervention. This will help reduce complications in future. "Untreated hypertension leads to heart failure, heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure. One should not take it lightly. Besides, stress management and counselling at all workplaces is very essential," the doctor added.

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Faculty & Non Faculty posts
(ILBS/Careers/7/23)

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is an autonomous super-specialty Institute of excellence under GNCT of Delhi and a Deemed-to-be-University by the GOI. Its vision is to be a global leader by becoming a beacon of patient care, teaching and research in the field of Liver, Pancreatobiliary, Renal,Oncology and Organ Transplantation. All appointments shall be on "contract basis" and will initially be for a period of "four years" (except for Residents) and can be extended based on performance. In its search for the best talent, ILBS invites applications for the following positions including backlog:

(A) SPECIAL DRIVE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES * Backlog

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts
1.	Senior Resident (Radiology-01, Hepatology -01)	2*- OH
2.	Junior Resident	2*- OH
3.	Resident Medical Officer	1* - OH
4.	Assistant Manager Nurse	1* - OH
5.	Junior Nurse	4*- OH
6.	Executive Nurse	9*- OH
7.	Jr. Executive Nurse	6*- OH

(B) APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR UR, OBC, SC & ST CATEGORY

8.	Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
9.	Professor (Neurology)	1-UR
10.	Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
11.	Professor (Radiology)	1-UR
12.	Additional Professor (Radiology)	1-UR
13.	Additional Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
14.	Additional Professor (Critical or Intensive care Medicine)	1-UR
15.	Additional Professor (Hepatology)	1-UR, 1-OBC
16.	Additional Professor (Neurology)	1-UR
17.	Additional Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
18.	Associate Professor (Nuclear Medicine)	1-UR
19.	Associate Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
20.	Associate Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
21.	Associate Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
22.	Associate Professor (Cardiology)	1-UR
23.	Associate Professor (Radiology)	1-UR
24.	Associate Professor (Renal Transplant)	1-UR
25.	Associate Professor (Metabolic Medicine)	1-UR
26.	Associate Professor (Psychiatry)	1-UR
27.	Associate Professor (Hepatology)	1-UR
28.	Assistant Professor (Hepatology)	2-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC
29.	Assistant Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
30.	Assistant Professor (Cardiology)	1-UR
31.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Nutrition) Medical	1-UR
32.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Genetics)	1-UR
33.	Assistant Professor (Metabolic Medicine)	1-UR
34.	Assistant Professor (Radiology)	1-UR
35.	Consultant (Medical Oncology) Grade III, IV	2-UR
36.	Consultant (Renal Transplant) Grade III	1-UR
37.	Consultant (Nephrology) Grade IV	1-UR
38.	Consultant (Radiology) Grade III, IV	2-UR
39.	Consultant (Neurology) Grade III, IV	2-UR
40	Sr. Resident (Hepatology, Nephrology, Radiology)	6-UR, 2-OBC, 1-SC, 1-ST
41.	Resident Medical Officer	3-UR, 1-OBC,1-SC,1-ST
42.	Assistant Registrar	1-UR
43.	Manager (IT)	1-UR
44.	Dy. Manager (IT)	1-UR
45.	Jr. Engineer (Electrical/AC)	3-UR, 1-OBC
46.	Assistant Manager IT (Programmer)	1-UR

* including backlog

Last Date: 21st October, 2023. For further details, eligibility criteria and

recruitment rules please visit http://www.ilbs.in Dy. Head (HR) , ILBS

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GETTY IMAGES

Zidane in tight spaces, Gerrard in open field: Hey Jude!

Just 20, Jude Bellingham is already drawing comparisons with some of the finest midfielders in football history. After his eye-catching start to life at Real Madrid, the Bernabeu faithful adore him. Experts think he will soon establish himself as one of the generation's global icons

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

The Santiago Bernabeu isn't a place for shrinking violets. The iconic stadium, which Real Madrid calls home, has intimidated many a rival player. But the crowd is perhaps even more critical of its own. Accustomed to watching some of the finest players in history, the fans can swiftly turn on a footballer who they believe doesn't have what it takes to wear the Madrid colours.

It was on his debut in front of this exacting audience that Jude Bellingham produced a moment of pure swagger. In the LaLiga game against Getafe, the 20-year-old sent his marker the wrong way with a sharp feint. He then brandished an imaginary cape, mimicking a matador who had eluded a charging bull. It was a nod to Spanish culture, but also a sign of how comfortable he felt in Madrid's high-pressure environment, where winning everything is the minimum expectation.

> I'm 10 times better than I was last season. The level here is so high and I'm like a sponge, taking in everything my teammates tell me. That's why I've started the season so well
> **BELLINGHAM**

Miracle worker

Bellingham ended the night by nearly blowing the stadium's new roof off with a last-gasp 95th-minute strike to earn Madrid a narrow win. He repeated the miracle in his first Champions League game for Los Blancos, conjuring up another injury-time winner, against Union Berlin.

Bellingham has enjoyed a superb start to life in the Spanish capital after his 103 million euro move from Borussia Dortmund. Wearing the No. 5 on his back in tribute to Zinedine Zidane, the England midfielder has quickly become a fan favourite.

It is not surprising that Madridistas have instantly taken to him – he scores important goals and celebrates them with his arms open wide, as if to share his joy with them. He has been serenaded with the chorus of a famous Beatles song. "When they sang 'Hey Jude' at the end, I got goosebumps," he told Real Madrid TV after the win over Getafe. "I just wanted to turn and stand still and listen to it while my legs were shaking."

Bellingham's purchase was, in part, a response to the stinging defeat the record 14-time European champion suffered at the hands of Manchester City in last season's Champions League semifinal. He is viewed as one of the main ingredients of a regeneration. Madrid has started reducing minutes for its veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Toni Kroos while allowing Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga, Aurelien Tchouameni and Fede Valverde more opportunities.

The 6'1" Bellingham adds to the tougher core Madrid sports this season, shorn of Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who now plays in Saudi Arabia. And his goals so far have replaced Benzema's – Bellingham has played more like the French forward than Les Bleus icon Zidane.

Diamond in a diamond

Thus far, Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has deployed Bellingham as a No. 10, often at the tip of a midfield diamond, providing a strong physical presence in the area behind two wide forwards.

"We think that Bellingham's arrival makes up for Karim's absence," Ancelotti told Italy's Radio Serie A. "What he has been able to do so far doesn't surprise those who know him. His quality isn't surprising anybody, but the number of goals he's got is surprising."

When asked how Bellingham had clicked so quickly, Ancelotti said, "He's adapted very well because he's a very intelligent player who moves very well without the ball. Good players with personality suffer a bit less than the others [at Madrid]. A player with personality, above all, more than quality, means that an important shirt like Real Madrid's doesn't weigh so much."

That personality was on display when he helped drive England to the World Cup quarterfinals last year in Qatar at only 19. It was also on display at Dortmund, especially last season, when he led his team out at Cologne in October, becoming the youngest match captain since the Bundesliga started recording the data in 1995.

Over the Bundesliga season, he covered more distance (322 km) than any of his teammates, won 482 'duels', a league high, and played 2,693 league minutes, the most of any player at the club. He appeared in 31 of his team's 34 games, scoring eight goals and providing four assists.

> Good players with personality suffer a bit less than the others. A player with personality, above all, more than quality, means that an important shirt like Real Madrid's doesn't weigh so much
> **CARLO ANCELOTTI**
> Real Madrid coach

Bellingham played a central role in Dortmund coming within a whisker of ending Bayern Munich's monopoly of the German top-flight, but believes he is already a much better player. "I'm 10 times better than I was last season," he said. "The level here is so high and I'm like a sponge, taking in everything my teammates tell me. That's why I've started the season so well."

Bellingham is the complete midfielder. His ball-carrying and passing stats are top drawer. He can manipulate the ball in tight areas, dribble out of trouble and link play. His athleticism and intelligence make him a threat in transitions. His timing and feel for space allow him to arrive in the box to get on the end of crosses and cut-backs. And he is no slouch defensively.

In addition to his current role at Madrid, Bellingham can play as either member of a double pivot, as an 8 in a midfield three, and as a free-roaming No. 10. Rene Maric, who was an assistant coach at Dortmund during the 2021-22 season, paid Bellingham the ultimate compliment. "If you want me to exaggerate, the best possible version of Jude could be like a Zidane in small spaces and like a [Steven] Gerrard in open spaces," Maric said.

At a time when Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have left Europe, Bellingham is among a group of players – Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Vinicius Jr., some of the others – establishing themselves as the new generation of global icons.

But with the world seemingly at his feet, there is a point of serious concern. Only 20, he already has very high-mileage at the top end of the game – the relentless demands of modern-day football, both physical and mental, are unlikely to diminish anytime soon and Bellingham will require careful management if he is to maintain his extraordinary trajectory.

Burnout threat

World players union FIFPRO warned of the dangers faced by young players such as Bellingham in June. A report found that Bellingham had accumulated almost 15,000 minutes in competitive senior matches before turning 20 – considerably more than his predecessors such as Frank Lampard, Wayne Rooney and Gerrard at the same stage of their illustrious careers.

Chronic stress and physical wear and tear are inevitable consequences of a heavy workload; they threaten career longevity.

Ancelotti and England head coach Gareth Southgate are all too aware of the dangers of burnout and the need to protect such a valuable asset.

But they believe his incredible maturity and the support networks around him will go a long way towards helping Bellingham realise his full potential on the pitch.

Madrid and English fans, as well as football lovers everywhere, will hope that they are right and that the chorus of 'Hey Jude' continues to ring out across stadiums for the best part of the next 15 years.

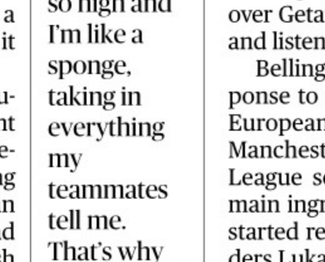
GAME THEORY

Top constructors in Formula One

Red Bull sealed the Formula One constructors' world championship in Suzuka last weekend, with six races still remaining in the season. How does it stack up against other chassis constructors in the sport's history? We take a look at the most successful constructors and their most dominant periods:

Most titles

Constructor	Titles	Seasons
Ferrari	16	1961, 1964, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008
Williams	9	1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997
McLaren	8	1974, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1998
Mercedes	8	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Lotus	7	1963, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1978
Red Bull	6	2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2022, 2023
Cooper	2	1959, 1960
Brabham	2	1966, 1967
Renault	2	2005, 2006
Vanwall	1	1958
BRM	1	1962
Matra	1	1969
Tyrrell	1	1971
Benetton	1	1995
Brawn	1	2009



Longest title streaks

Titles in a row	Constructor	Seasons
8	Mercedes	2014–2021
6	Ferrari	1999–2004
4	McLaren	1988–1991
4	Red Bull	2010–2013
3	Ferrari	1975–1977
3	Williams	1992–1994
2	Cooper	1959–1960

Titles in a row	Constructor	Seasons
2	Brabham	1966–1967
2	Lotus	1972–1973
2	Williams	1980–1981, 1986–1987, 1996–1997
2	Ferrari	1982–1983, 2007–2008
2	McLaren	1984–1985
2	Renault	2005–2006
2	Red Bull	2022–2023

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Slicing water

The journey to the 37th America's Cup began with a preliminary regatta in Vilanova i La Geltru, Spain, earlier this month.

The America's Cup, a sailing yacht race founded in 1851, is the oldest international competition still operating in any sport.

The America's Cup match races are contested by two teams: one from the yacht club that holds the trophy and the other from the yacht club that is challenging for it.

The 37th edition, to be held in Barcelona in 2024, will be raced between defending champion Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and the club that wins the Challenger Selection Series. The preliminary regattas — after Vilanova i La Geltru, the teams head to Jeddah in November-December, with the third and final one scheduled in Barcelona next year — serve as warm-up races ahead of the Challenger Selection Series.

Like the first preliminary regatta, the second will also feature one-design AC40s — the world's newest foiling class (top speed: 50 knots).

At the final preliminary regatta, all the America's Cup teams will race in their new AC75s for the very first time.

CMRS inspects metro stretch from Kengeri to Challaghatta

The stretch is likely to be opened for commercial operation in October

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The inspection of the Kengeri-Challaghatta stretch of the Namma Metro was conducted on Friday by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for the Southern Circle.

Officials from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) confirmed that the tests commenced at 9.45 a.m. and all the required tests were completed successfully. Last week, the CMRS completed the inspection of the eagerly awaited Baiyappanahalli-K.R. Pura section (2 km), and it approved the commencement of operations.

The Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety inspecting the Challaghatta-Kengeri stretch of Namma Metro on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Both stretches
Both stretches are likely to be opened for commercial operation in October.

Before the Karnataka Assembly election dates were announced, the BMRCL inaugurated a 13.71 km metro line from K.R. Pura to Whitefield, which has 12 stations. However, a nearly 2 km segment between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura remained unopened due to pending work.

After the opening of both the Baiyappanahalli-K.R. Pura and Kengeri-Challaghatta sections to the public, the entire 44-km Purple Line, connecting Whitefield to Challaghatta, will become fully operational.

Rowdy sheeter stabbed to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A rowdy sheeter was stabbed to death by a gang of five to six assailants in D.J. Halli on Thursday night.

The deceased has been identified as Syyed Suhail, 28, a rowdy sheeter with J.C. Nagar police station who has six cases of assault, robbery, extortion, and other cases pending against him.

According to the police, on Thursday night around 9:30 p.m., a gang of five to six youths turned up at Suhail's house on Modi Road, D.J. Halli, and asked for him. As he came out, they took him to a nearby spot, stabbed him repeatedly in his abdomen, and fled from the spot.

Though he was immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital, he did not survive. He was declared "brought dead."

D.J. Halli police have registered a murder case and are analysing footage from CCTV cameras in the area to identify the suspects. Given that Suhail went out with the gang of youths voluntarily, the police suspect that he knew them, and the murder could have happened over an old rivalry.

daCunha/AB/902

INBRIEF

DFRL develops biodegradable water bottles

Mysuru-based Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) has innovated eco-friendly biodegradable water bottles. The sustainable polylactic acid-based bottles help to lower the overall carbon footprint and are compostable, it said. At the launch of the bottle, the DFRL said it is compostable as per ISO 17088-2021 and IS 17899 T: 2022 standards and added that it was safe for food and beverage contact applications.

Barista championship held at World Coffee Conference to acknowledge cafe expertise

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A National Barista Championship was conducted at the World Coffee Conference 2023 and the championship was designed to recognise the most technically proficient and talented baristas, persons who serve in a coffee bar and make creamy artistic impressions on the top of the beverage.

Hrishikesh Mohite to represent India in the World Barista Championship to be held in South Korea

The championship was dedicated to promoting excellence throughout the entire coffee value chain, fostering skill development, and cultivating a thriving café culture in India, said a release from WCC.

Hrishikesh Mohite from Café' De Meet won the National Barista Championship 2024 at the WCC 2023, and the winner will represent India in the World Barista Championship to be held in South Korea.

Under the Women's Star Brewer Skills Championship, female baristas and home brewers were offered a platform to display their coffee brewing prowess, demonstrating their skills. The Women's Star Brewer Skills Championship was awarded to Priti Pradhan.

'Kappe Raga' wins Jackson Wild Award; CM congratulates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kappe Raaga, a first-of-its musical video that introduces 'Kumbara', the night frog, has won the prestigious Jackson Wild Award in the "Best Animal Behaviour - Short Form Category."

The filmmaker Prashanth S. Nayaka took to Instagram and said, "Kappe raga is a tribute to 80 million Kannada speakers across the globe and to 1.5 billion people of Bharata. This is the first ever Kannada language film to win at Jackson Wild... Karnataka is a mystic land of ancient culture that takes pride in music, literature, and its rich wildlife since thousands of years."

'This is the first Kannada language film to win at Jackson Wild.' It won in the 'Best Animal Behaviour - Short Form Category'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took to social media platform X to congratulate the film-maker and said "Winning Green Oscar was a proud moment for every Kannadiga."

Karnataka bandh brings city to standstill

A majority of shops and hotels were closed, autorickshaws and cabs remained off the road, and most people stayed indoors; IT companies closed their doors, some employees worked from home

A view of the APMC Yard at Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru during the Karnataka bandh on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Shops in Chickpet remained shut on account of the bandh. SUDHAKARA JAIN

IT companies were closed in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Children playing cricket at Padmanabhanagar as holiday was declared for schools on Friday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka bandh called by farmers and Kannada activists over the inter-State Cauvery river water dispute saw Bengaluru coming to a standstill with a majority of shops and hotels closed, autorickshaws and cabs remaining off the road barring a few exceptions, and most people staying indoors. However, post 6 p.m., life slowly limped back to normal.

Roads across the city wore a deserted look with near empty traffic. Hosur road, Electronics City flyover, Hebbal flyover along Airport Road, Puneeth Rajkumar Road on Outer Ring Road which are usually choked were near empty with a few private vehicles, autos and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses plying. This was also thanks to the large number of employees who moved out of the city on Thursday evening in view of a long weekend that extends up to October 2 - Gandhi Jayanthi. While IT companies closed their doors, some employees reportedly worked from home.

While most of the hotels remained closed on main roads, eateries and street vendors opened for business in deep residential areas. Rakesh L., a resident at Padmanabhanagar, said he lives alone and was a little worried about the bandh, but hotels in residential areas came to his rescue. Charan D.J., who runs a condiment shop at Jayaprakash Nagar, had barely managed to carry out business for 15 minutes after he opened shop at 6 a.m. on Friday when Kannada activists arrived at the scene and asked him to down the shutters. Predictably, most of the shops from Attibele junction to Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border point voluntarily shut down all through the day.

30,000 hotels shut

P.C. Rao, president of Bengaluru Hotel Owners' Association, thanked about 30,000 hotel, condiment, and bakery owners for supporting the bandh. On the other hand, in many places, liquor shops were open post 11 a.m., and seen doing good business.

While public transport was available, albeit with reduced operations, commuters who were travelling from Hosur to Bengaluru had to face some trouble as all Tamil Nadu registration buses and vehicles were stopped by the Tamil Nadu police at the border. Many walked up to the nearest bus stand, which was located about 1.5 km from the border.

Protests galore

The bandh also saw multiple protests. Kannada activists staged protests at Town Hall, Freedom Park, Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border near Hosur, and other places. The activists took out a protest rally from Attibele junction to the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border before they staged a sit-in at the border. The police detained the activists when they attempted to continue the protest beyond 20 minutes. The police also detained Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj near Town Hall.

Actors Shivarajkumar, Darshan, and others at the protest held by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce as part of the Karnataka bandh, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Kannada film industry will support amicable solution by both States, says Shivarajkumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reacting to Thursday's incident in which actor Siddharth's press conference was disrupted by Kannada activists, superstar Shivarajkumar apologised to the actor on behalf of the Kannada film industry.

The 61-year-old addressed the issue while speaking at the protest held by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) as part of the Karnataka bandh called to oppose the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

"We Kannadigas are very tolerant people. We are known to love films of all languages, and we are appreciated globally for our welcoming nature. What happened with Siddharth was not correct. I apologise to him on behalf of the industry," said Mr. Shivarajkumar.

Siddharth was in the city to promote the Kannada dubbed version of his Tamil film *Chithha*.

The protest, at the Sri Gururaja Kalyana Mantapa at High Grounds, Gandhinagar, was attended by Kannada actors such as Darshan, Dhruva Sarja, 'Duniya' Vijay, Shruthi, Pooja Gandhi, Bhavana, Sriimurali, Srinigara Kitty, and others. "There is no point in actors gathering for a protest for such an important issue," Mr. Shivarajkumar said.

"The onus lies on the leaders of both the States (Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) to come up with an amicable solution. The film industry's support will always be there. Let's not forget that a farmer's problem is the same, be it in Karnataka or in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Actor Jaggesh took to social media to inform people that he was unable to attend the protest owing to ill health. While Yash is in London as part of the preparations for his next project, the other noteable star absent at the event was Sudeep, who is currently shooting for his next film out of town.

Hues of protest: From eating green chillies to turning up in burqa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vatal Nagaraj, who led the Karnataka Bandh call on Friday, also led in innovative ways to protest. He came out of his house wearing a burqa with an empty plastic water pot on his head to waiting cameras on Friday.

Mr. Nagaraj said he was wearing a burqa because black signified protest, and the empty water pot signified women's struggle for drinking water during the ongoing Cauvery struggle.

Focus on women

"We do not even have enough water for drinking purposes and Tamil Nadu is asking for water for agriculture. It is the women of the State who suffer the brunt of lack of drinking water. So I have worn a burqa to express my solidarity with these women and highlight the drinking water crisis looming over the State," he said.

Many other Kannada activists also took up innovative ways to protest on Friday.

Many Kannada activist groups came to the streets on Friday with empty plastic water pots to indicate lack of water in the State. As some started drumming on these pots, others started flinging them to the ground in protest.

A group staged a skit where a blindfolded man was seen desperately seeking water, even as another was seen spilling it on the street.

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj protesting wearing a burqa in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bath in Freedom Park

A person took a bath in mineral water in Freedom Park and told media persons that it signified that if the State released water to Tamil Nadu, people will have to buy mineral water to even take a bath.

Some Kannada activists ate green chillies on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway to express their "suffering."

SNIPPETS

Most of the State Inc. opt for WFH; some get holiday

It was business as usual for Karnataka Inc., which comprises technology, manufacturing, e-commerce, telecom, hospitality, automotive, retail, real estate, automotive, healthcare, etc. on Friday, despite the State-wide bandh, as they were advised to work from home (WFH). However, some corporates declared a holiday on that day and asked their employees to work on Saturday or another day next week to compensate. Some 10% of the workers who are part of critical operations worked from offices.

Schools conduct virtual classes to complete syllabus

Despite the district administration's order about the closure of schools and colleges, some schools conducted virtual classes for their students. As the schools were closed on September 26 due to Bengaluru bandh and with a series of holidays coming up in the weekend, virtual classes were conducted to complete the syllabus.

Majority of hotels shut, some offer takeaways

While a majority of the hotels were shut and displayed banners showing their support for the bandh, a few hotels that opened shutters restricted business to takeaways. Many people were seen taking parcels and standing in queue. This was commonly seen in thick residential patches in the city.

OPDs see nearly 50% reduction as patients stay away from hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Patients have been hit hard this week due to two bandhs in a gap of two days. Not wanting to take any chances, most patients chose to postpone their hospital visits. Although the staff members, including doctors and paramedics, could make it to their workplaces, patient flow was reduced by nearly 50% in most hospitals, especially in government-run tertiary care centres.

At the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Research and Sciences, the patient flow in the Out-Patient Department (OPD) was reduced by 50% and admissions by nearly 90% on Friday.

Visits postponed

"While the usual OPD flow is around 1,500, we saw 702 patients on Friday. The number of admissions also reduced from the usual 250 to 23. This is mainly because those coming from other regions of the State postponed their visits," said C.N. Manjunath, institute director.

At the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, the number of new cases reduced to 37 from the daily 120. While follow-up cases also came down to 550 on Friday from around 2,000 seen on an average daily, admissions reduced to 53 from the usual over 80, according to hospital authorities.

Admissions down

It was a similar scenario at the hospitals attached to BMCRI. While the patient flow in Vani Vilas and Minto Ophthalmic hospitals was reduced by 36% and 15% respectively, Victoria Hospital saw over a 37% decrease in patient footfall.

"On average, we see 1,210 patients in the OPD at Victoria Hospital. Due to the bandh, only 761 patients visited the hospital. Admissions was down," said Deepak Shivanna, medical superintendent, Victoria Hospital. At Bowring and Lady Curzon hospital, patient flow reduced from the average 1,500 to 552, said Manoj Kumar H.V., dean & director.

Disruptions in KSRTC and BMTC bus services; no major impact on metro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka bandh on Friday partially affected public transport causing disruptions in bus services of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), but had no major impact on Namma Metro services in Bengaluru as few people ventured out.

Due to low passenger turnout caused by the bandh, the number of buses operated was reduced. According to KSRTC, only 64.26% of buses were operational in the State till 4 p.m. Out of the 5,268 buses scheduled, only 3,385 buses from 83 depots were in service. BMTC ran 3,587 scheduled buses out of the planned 5,602 for Friday. BMTC officials said that buses were operated based on demand.

A view of Majestic bus stand in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Metro operations remained mostly unaffected. However, due to the statutory safety inspection of the newly constructed extension between Kengeri and Challaghatta stations by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (Southern Circle), certain sections of train service were curtailed on Friday.

The streets saw very few app-based cabs and autos, as the association had backed the bandh.

44 flights cancelled to and from KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forty-four flights to and from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were cancelled on Friday. Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) officials said that 22 incoming and 22 outgoing flights were cancelled by airlines.

A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) regarding cancellations of flights was issued on the night of September 28 and passengers were informed in advance about it. "Operational reasons" were cited for the cancellation. However, sources said that the poor load factor due to bandh led to the cancellation of the flights.

A majority of the flights which were cancelled belonged to Indigo and Akasa Air.

While Indigo said the flights were cancelled due to operational reasons, Akasa Air did not respond to queries about why and how many flights were cancelled.

Many airlines had issued advisories asking passengers to report at the airport early in order to avoid inconveniences. Airlines had asked domestic passengers to arrive at least two-and-a-half hours prior to their flight's departure and for international passengers to arrive at the airport at least three-and-a-half hours.

This is the second time this week flights have been cancelled citing operational reasons. On Friday a group of protesters belonging to Kannada organisations who tried to enter Terminal 1 were detained by the police.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, SEP. 30		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:10
RISE	19:01	SET 06:48
SUNDAY, OCT. 01		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:10
RISE	19:46	SET 07:45
MONDAY, OCT. 02		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:09
RISE	20:32	SET 08:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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THE HINDU
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Commuters face hardship at T.N. border

Vehicles, including government and private buses, bearing Tamil Nadu registration numbers were stopped at the border point near Hosur

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Protesters being taken into custody at the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border near Hosur during the bandh on Friday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Commuters travelling from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka walking to Attibele to board buses after Tamil Nadu registration vehicles were sent back by the police of that State at the border near Hosur on Friday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Commuters travelling from Tamil Nadu to Bengaluru faced hardship on Friday when the Karnataka bandh during the bandh, as vehicles, including government and private buses bearing TN registration numbers, were stopped at the border point near Hosur.

Scenes of commuters alighting from buses on the other side of the border and crossing over to the State on foot were common all through the day. To reach their destinations in the city, they had to travel 1.5 km further to Attibele to board BMTC buses.

Autos to rescue
But autorickshaw drivers on the Karnataka side came to their rescue. The autos were standing in line near the border despite the bandh and charging ₹20 per person (sharing mode) to drop them off at the Attibele bus stand.

Murali Thyagraj, an auto driver, said that until afternoon, each auto clocked 4-5 trips, and about 20 autos were catering to the commuters. He also said as bus services to Hosur, which is located 15 km from the border, were few, many from Attibele hired autos to catch buses on the other side of the border.

Those who could not afford auto rickshaws walked to the bus stand. Mallesh, a daily wage labourer who visited his relative's place at Hosur, said he was walking as he could not afford other modes of transportation. He said the police should have allowed TN registration buses up till Attibele as commuters had to face the ordeal.

Precautionary measure
Tamil Nadu police, besides stopping private buses, also asked private cars to return unless their travel was unavoidable. The police were seen advising them against travel as a precautionary measure. For a brief period of time, Kannada activists blocked Hosur road and later police allowed the traffic to move.

Tourist hotspots deserted in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Places of tourist interest in and around Mysuru which tend to be swarming with visitors appeared deserted on Friday due to the Karnataka Bandh called by various organisations to protest the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Tourism is one of the main economic drivers of the region as Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu are replete with places of historical interest and scenic beauty.

The main attraction is Mysuru palace which draws nearly 3.5 million tourists every year, among the highest in the State.

But advance publicity given to the Karnataka Bandh and the continuing agitations over the Cauvery issue has led to a gradual reduction in tourists' footfall.

The declining trend was visible when the weekend tourist numbers also plummeted as the Cauvery issue gained traction.

The tourism sector in Mysuru is fueled by domestic visitors with a sizeable number of them coming from Tamil Nadu and Kerala while a majority of the visitors tend to be from Bengaluru and rest of Karnataka and other places in India.

But in view of the bandh, the trips have either been cancelled or postponed and there mass cancellations of hotel accommodation.

785 activists detained across city and released later

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka bandh call given by Kannada Okkuta, a coalition of Kannada organisations and farmers groups, went off peacefully without any untoward incident in the city on Friday.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said no violent incident was reported in the city on Friday. "Since we had imposed prohibitory orders in the city and designated Freedom Park as the site of protest, we detained several activists holding protests across the city and most of them were dropped off at Freedom Park where they were allowed to protest," he said, adding that a total 785 activists were detained across the city on Friday, and later released.

He said nearly 2,000 people held protests at Freedom Park through the day.

Only at Freedom Park
The police action of restricting protests anywhere else in the city apart from Freedom Park came under intense criticism from activists in the city on Friday.

'Nearly 2,000 people held protests at Freedom Park through the day'

Vatal Nagaraj, president of the Okkuta, said the State government had been using the brute force of the police to stifle dissent and protests. He said orders to protest only at Freedom Park were "undemocratic."

However, senior police officials said that the rule that all protests should be restricted to Freedom Park was following a High Court direction, which the activists have contended.

Why not film actors?
Answering a question by journalists as to why only Kannada activists protesting elsewhere in the city were detained and not film actors, Mr. Dayananda said the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce had taken prior permission from the city police to protest next to the Chamber. "Moreover, they did not come to the streets," he said. Mr. Dayananda further said the city police will continue to patrol sensitive areas and keep a watch on elements that could cause trouble in the light of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) order on Friday.

Railway services not affected by bandh

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Karnataka bandh called to protest the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu on Friday did not affect the train services in the Mysuru region but passenger traffic was hit.

The passenger footfall at the Mysuru station was near normal when many of the long-distance trains arrived in the morning. But there was steady decline in the number of passengers on both the inbound and outbound trains. It was negligible by noon. Railway officials said only 250 to 300 tickets were issued across the counter for different destinations in the afternoon.

According to officials, 54 pairs of trains handled at the Mysuru station daily had negligible passenger traffic.

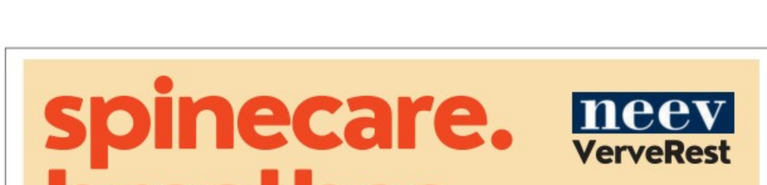
From Page One

Bandh evokes good response

In contrast, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts remained largely unaffected by the bandh, as buses plied as usual and educational institutions, shops, and business establishments functioned through the day, amid incessant rain in several parts of the two districts. Only the service of executive buses of the KSRTC from Mangaluru to Chennai were curtailed till Bengaluru, an official said.

The bandh evoked a lukewarm response in the northern districts of Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka regions. While life went on as usual with shops and offices remaining open and transport services unaffected, there were a few demonstrations held at important traffic junctions in major cities and towns as an expression of solidarity.

In Gadag, a funeral ritual of all the members of Parliament from the State was performed by the protesters. At a few places, the protesters courted arrest trying to stop buses and were released later.



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INBRIEF

U.S. firm Waters Corporation to invest ₹133 cr. in Bengaluru

Massachusetts-based Waters Corporation, an analytical laboratory instrument and software company with a market capitalisation of over $16 billion, will invest $16 million (around ₹133 crore) to set up its global capability centre at RMZ Ecoworld in Bengaluru. The company's India investment plan was shared by its president and CEO Udit Batra with a visiting business delegation from Karnataka headed by State's Large and Medium Industries & Infrastructure Minister M.B. Patil in Boston on Thursday. Waters Corporation has also requested support in building partnerships with local pharmaceutical giants manufacturing biosimilars to be able to collaborate with the vision to export medicines to other markets, said a communique from Mr. Patil's office. The delegation comprised S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka, and Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Industries and Commerce.

Increase forest area in State to 33% to fight climate change: CM

Out of total land area of the Karnataka, only about 20% is forest area and efforts should be made to expand it to at least 33%, which is crucial to fight climate change, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "We are facing problems due to scarce rain this year. Situations like Cauvery water issue, drought, and shortage in food production have arisen. This affects the State's GDP and per capita income. This time, 50% crop has been damaged in 40 lakh hectares," he said, speaking at the Chief Minister's Medal Presentation Ceremony organised by the Karnataka Forest Department at the Vidhana Soudha on Friday. He said that drought situation occurs every four to five years, and if the forest area increases, it is possible to prevent such extreme weather conditions.

State to file review petitions before SC, CWMA challenging order to release water to T.N.

CM holds meeting with legal luminaries and former Advocate-Generals, who suggest formation of advisory committee to collect data and provide suggestions on water issues on day-to-day basis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following suggestions from former judges, the Karnataka government has decided to file review petitions before the Supreme Court and Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Saturday, citing non-availability of water to release 3,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water to Tamil Nadu till October 15, owing to severe deficiency in rainfall during the southwest monsoon in the Cauvery basin.

On the day of the Karnataka bandh on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a meeting with legal luminaries, seeking their views for effectively arguing Karnataka's case in the Supreme Court and the CWMA for safeguarding the State's interest. Legal experts have suggested to the government to file review petitions before the apex court and CWMA opposing the order.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chairing a meeting with legal luminaries in Bengaluru on Friday.

What CWMA said

On Friday, the CWMA upheld the directive of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) that asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu till October 15. The CWMA, which held its meeting in New Delhi, also asked Karnataka to make good a shortfall of earlier directions.

The legal luminaries, and former advocate generals suggested to the government to form an advisory committee to collect data and provide suggestions and advice to the State government on a day-to-day basis about the water availability in the Cauvery basin and matters related to other inter-State water sharing disputes, including Mahadayi and Krishna.

The committee would also provide information to the State's legal team to argue the case in the Supreme Court and CWMA, Mr. Siddaramaiah said after the meeting.

The legal experts suggested to the government to forcefully argue the case on construction of a proposed Mekedatu project, a balancing reservoir, across the Cauvery in Kanakapura. The Supreme Court told the legal team to argue the case about the project when it listed the matter after two weeks, the CM told media persons.

The construction of the dam would help to store water which is otherwise wasted during heavy rainfall days in monsoon season. About 650 tmcft of water flowed to Tamil Nadu last year owing to heavy rainfall, he said.

The Mekedatu project would be constructed for catering to drinking water needs of Bengaluru and Kolar and generation of power. It would not be used for storage of water for irrigating the lands. Tamil Nadu would not face any water shortage owing to construction of the dam for storing 67 tmcft of water. During the distress period, the water would be released to Tamil Nadu as well, he said.

Attendees

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, held a two-hour long meeting with former Chief Justice of India M. N. Venkatachaliah, former judges Shivaraj Patil, V. Gopala Gowda, R.V. Raveendran, P. Vishwanath Shetty, M.N. Venugopal Gowda, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, legal adviser A.S. Ponnanna, Advocate-General Shashikiran Shetty, former Advocate-Generals B.V. Acharaya, Madhusudhan Naik, Uday Holla, Prabhuling Navadgi, Ravivarma Kumar, and other advocates.

Stop release of water, hold special legislature session to discuss Cauvery issue, farmers tell Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti and Kannada organisations on Friday placed five demands, including immediately stopping of release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, before the Congress government in Karnataka.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday held talks with samiti convener Kurubur Shanthakumar, who led the Bengaluru bandh agitation on September 26, and a few farmers' leaders at his official residence Krishna. The latter demanded that the government must convene a special session of the State legislature to send a strong message to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Centre stating that water would not be released till the adoption of a scientific "distress formula" on sharing of Cauvery water during the distress years.

Mr. Shanthakumar and Mukhyamantri Chandru, former legislator and also convener of the samiti, demanded that the government put pressure for scrapping of CWMA, which was "functioning under pressure of different governments/political parties in different periods."

Kurubur Shanthakumar, convener, Karnataka Jala Samrakshana Samiti

On the lines of EC

They demanded setting up an independent body comprising experts in the field of environment, water resources, weather, and representatives of farmers organisations in the four States that come under the Cauvery basin. The independent body should be formed on the lines of the Election Commission of India, they suggested.

The other demand of the farmers was immediate issue of an order for taking up the work of the proposed Mekedatu reservoir, a balancing reservoir across Cauvery river in Kanakapura. The farmers demanded withdrawal of police cases registered against farmers, Kannada activists, and other people during the Cauvery protests across Karnataka.

Need vs availability

Mr. Siddaramaiah told the delegation that so far 43 tmcft of water has been released. It has been ordered that 123 tmcft of water should be released. "We have been protesting every time before the CWMA. We said that there is no water. We need 70 tmcft water for irrigation to sustain the crop and another 30 tmcft for drinking. Industries require three tmcft of water. The State has a total requirement of 106 tmcft. But we have only 50 tmcft of water," he explained.

There is lack of coordination between CM and Dy. CM on Cauvery issue, alleges BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party has alleged that there is a lack of coordination between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on handling the Cauvery water sharing row.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday, BJP MPs from Bengaluru Tejaswi Surya and P.C. Mohan referred to the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister describing the CWRC's directive as being in favour of the State. Later, the Chief Minister said that the State would challenge the order, Mr. Surya pointed out.

He also recalled Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, hailing the order earlier and expressing happiness. He maintained that such a stand would affect the morale of the State's legal team that had argued before the authorities that Karnataka is facing drinking water shortage. Mr. Surya alleged that both lacked clarity on the Cauvery issue.

He urged the government to use the opportunity of the Congress and DMK being allies of INDIA to hold consultation with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to convince him about the need to support Karnataka's Mekedatu balancing reservoir project. If they succeed in it, then they would go down in the history as the great leaders who resolved the Cauvery crisis, he maintained.

Mr. Surya stated that all the BJP MPs from the State and the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre were with Karnataka on Cauvery row. He maintained that the BJP was with the Congress government in Karnataka with respect to finding a solution to the issue.

He also argued that the Cauvery Water Management Authority should desist from ordering Karnataka to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu without assessing the ground level situation.

He suggested to the Karnataka government to demand before the CWMA to send a team of experts to Karnataka to assess the situation.

Admission row: Complete exercise of temporarily shifting MBBS students of 2022-23 to other colleges by Oct. 3, says HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to complete the exercise of temporarily transferring students, who were admitted to MBBS course in G.R. Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Mangaluru, during the academic year 2022-23, to other private medical institutes by October 3.

A Division Bench comprising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil passed the interim order on the petitions filed by Dhatri D.S. Anvekar and other students of the college. The petitioner-students had sought directions to the authorities to make arrangements for them to attend the remaining classes of the academic year and write the first-year MBBS exams commencing from October 31 as their college was not recognised by the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the year 2022-23.

During the hearing, the Bench was told that Department of Medical Education has decided to temporarily shift the students to other 24 private medical institutes after the NMC has claimed that it had not granted permission to the college for making admission for 2022-23 due to shortcomings in faculty and infrastructure requirement. Also, NMC claimed that the letter of NMC's permission, produced by the college, was "forged".

According to quota

The government said the plea of the students for shifting them to government medical colleges cannot be accepted due to difference in fee structure and they would be shifted to 24 private institutes according to the quota under which they were admitted to the present college.

Taking note of these submissions, the Bench said that it would examine at a later stage how the government committed the serious error of allotting seats in the college for 2022-23 if the college had no valid permission at the relevant point of time as, at present, the need of the hour is to enable proper environment for the students to write the exam.

However, the Bench said that arrangements made to temporarily shift the students to other medical institutes would be subject to the final orders to be passed in the writ petitions filed by the college, which has questioned the legality of the actions of NMC.

Felicitated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah felicitated State players who were part of the visually challenged Indian women's and men's cricket team that won gold and silver, at International Blind Sports Federation World Games. Umapathi, Deepika T.C., Gangavva Neelappa Harijan, Prakash Jayaramaiah, Sunil Kumar, and Basappa Laxman Vaddagol were honoured.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

TENTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of our beloved **Mother**

17.06.1951 30.09.2013

Mrs. GEETHA RAMAKRISHNAN
W/o.Late A.R.Ramakrishnan, B.E
City Engineer (Retd) Corporation of Chennai

Fondly Remembered by

Sons: R.Arun Prasad, R.Surendira Prasad, R.Goutham Prasaath
Daughters-in-Law: Mital Surendira & Jayanthi Arun
Grandson: S.Aswin & S.Harshad

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಖಾಗ್ರಾ), ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಸಿ-ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:-ಸಿ-5, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ
ಚಿತ್ತಾಪುರ ರೋಡ್ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ-585202
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ಸಂ:ಜಿಪಂಯಾ/ಉನಿ(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ)/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-30.09.2023

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Inviting Tender through E-Procurment)

2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಕುಶಲಕರ್ಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಸಲಕರಣೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಹೊಲಿಗೆಯಂತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ವೃತ್ತಿನಿರತ ಕುಶಲಕರ್ಮಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಹೊಂದಿದವರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ISI ಮಾರ್ಕ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಹೊಲಿಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರ	73,00,000/-	1,82,500/-
2	ಬಡಿಗೆತನ	30,00,000/-	75,000/-
3	ಗೌಂಡಿ		
4	ದೋಬಿ		
5	ಕ್ಷೌರಿಕ		
6	ಕಮ್ಮಾರಿಕೆ		
	ಒಟ್ಟು	103,00,000/-	2,57,500/-

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಯಿಂದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗುವ ಅನುದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.
1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಶನ್ ನಂ: ಜಿಪಂಯಾ/ಉನಿ(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ)/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023-24 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಶನ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.09.2023 3) ಮಾದರಿ ಉಪಕರಣ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ಐಎಸ್‌ಟಿ):06.10.2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ 4) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ಐಎಸ್‌ಟಿ): 13.10.2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ಐಎಸ್‌ಟಿ): 18.10.2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 6) ಮಾದರಿ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳ ಪರಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 20.10.2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ಐಎಸ್‌ಟಿ): 27.10.2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 8) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಜಿ.ಪಂ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಶ್ಯ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಗ್ರಾಕೈ)
ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/148/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2023-24

G.R. Medical College students told to appear at KEA office

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 150 students of G.R. Medical College, Mangaluru, who were allotted seats for degree courses during 2022-23, have been asked to appear at the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) office here at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

S. Ramya, executive director of KEA, stated in a press release on Friday that as per the High Court's order, these seats need to be reallotted for other colleges and hence, students have been asked to appear at the KEA office.

The seat matrix with regard to this has been published on KEA website, according to the release.

Students should bring the hall ticket given by KEA in 2022-23, admission documents of G.R. Medical College, photo ID card, and related other documents.

1992 Vachathi brutality: Madras High Court confirms conviction, sentences of officials

Justice P. Velmurugan dismisses all criminal appeals filed by the convicts in 2011; Court directs T.N. govt. to pay a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the 18 rape victims and initiate stringent action against the then Collector, Superintendent of Police and District Forest Officer

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday dismissed all criminal appeals filed against the conviction of, and the sentences awarded by a trial court in 2011 to officials of the Forest, Police and Revenue Departments for the atrocities committed on the residents of Vachathi, a tribal village in Dharmapuri district, in 1992.

Justice P. Velmurugan confirmed the conviction as well as the punishment, ranging from one to seven years of rigorous imprisonment, imposed by Dharmapuri Principal Sessions Judge S. Kumaraguru on September 29, 2011. The convicts included Indian Forest Service (IFS) officials who had raided the village for smuggled sandalwood.

Day of reckoning: Survivors celebrate in Vachathi following the Madras High Court's verdict on Friday. N. BASHKARAN

Though the trial court had ordered a compensation of ₹15,000 each to the 18 women who were raped by the raiding party and had said the amount could be given from the fine collected from the convicts, Justice Velmurugan directed the State government to pay a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the victims.

He made it clear the government would be at liberty to recover 50% of the compensation amount from those who had been convicted on the charge of rape. He also directed the government to ensure the livelihood of the victims either by providing them jobs in the government service or by creating self-employment opportunities.

Stringent action

The judge also ordered stringent action against the then Dharmapuri Collector, Superintendent of Police and District Forest Officer for having failed to protect the hapless villagers. He called for a report of compliance from the government on the steps taken for improving the livelihood and standards of living of the villagers.

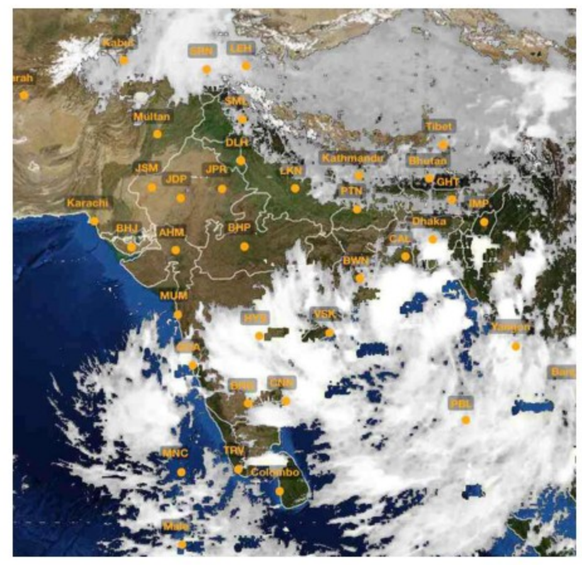
CBI probe

The case was probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation on the direction of the Madras High Court in 1995.

It filed a charge sheet against 269 accused persons, who included the then Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), M. Harikrishnan, Conservators of Forests P. Muthaiyan and L. Nathan, and District Forest Officer S. Balaji.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.4	24.0	Kozhikode	59	28.4	23.9
Ahmedabad	—	33.5	24.5	Kurnool	—	35.4	25.5
Aizawl	—	33.2	21.6	Lucknow	—	35.3	25.1
Allahabad	0.9	36.3	26.3	Madurai	—	35.5	25.6
Bengaluru	—	27.1	—	Mangaluru	20	27.1	23.6
Bhopal	—	33.0	23.4	Mumbai	51	33.5	24.7
Bhubaneswar	—	33.8	26.0	Mysuru	—	—	23.4
Chandigarh	—	35.2	22.2	New Delhi	—	35.5	21.4
Chennai	15	35.1	24.3	Patna	—	36.0	26.7
Coimbatore	0.3	30.2	22.4	Port Blair	30	28.4	24.2
Dehradun	—	33.8	20.2	Puducherry	—	36.4	26.4
Gangtok	—	25.1	17.6	Pune	12.1	29.4	21.7
Goa	32	26.6	23.0	Raipur	—	32.6	26.2
Guwahati	—	36.6	25.6	Ranchi	4	31.0	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.8	18.0
Hyderabad	35	32.0	22.5	Shimla	—	25.1	15.8
Imphal	1	28.3	21.2	Srinagar	—	27.3	8.6
Jaipur	—	36.0	22.2	Thiruvananthapuram	45.4	25.6	23.7
Kochi	72	27.2	23.8	Tiruchi	33	32.9	24.0
Kohima	5	23.8	12.0	Vijayawada	15	33.2	26.0
Kolkata	—	32.5	28.5	Visakhapatnam	—	33.4	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	.92	.42	96	105	
Bengaluru	5	.24	.67	30	46	
Chennai	4	.90	.53	25	40	
Delhi	.10	.49	.43	219	128	
Hyderabad	6	.59	.38	35	56	
Kolkata	.19	.42	.42	102	108	
Lucknow	.27	.19	.16	146	142	
Mumbai	.18	.20	.51	148	144	
Pune	131	218	111	62	55	
Visakhapatnam	6	.51	.27	55	113	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 284 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

A.P. High Court allows CID to issue notice to Lokesh in IRR case

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday gave liberty to the CID to issue a notice under Section 41-A of the Criminal Procedure Code to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary Nara Lokesh while disposing of his anticipatory bail plea in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) alignment scam case.

The disposal of the petition by Justice K. Suresh Reddy came after a submission by the Advocate General S. Sriram that the CID was inclined to serve a notice under Section 41-A.

The CID is now preparing to issue notice to Mr. Lokesh in New Delhi where he had been camping for two weeks to find a way out of the corruption cases registered against him and his father and former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu by CID, by consulting with his battery of lawyers while drumming up political support for their fight against alleged persecution by the State.

The High Court adjourned the hearing of the anticipatory bail petition filed by Mr. Naidu in the Amaravati IRR alignment scam case to October 3 for continuation of arguments. Justice K. Suresh Reddy recorded a submission made by Advocate-General S. Sriram that the State would follow the procedure laid down under Section 41-A of the Criminal Procedure Code and closed the matter for the day. Meanwhile, Mr. Naidu's lawyers are geared up for the hearing of the SLP filed by him in the Supreme Court against the striking down of his quash petition in the skill development scam case by the High Court, on October 3.

Actor Vishal alleges corruption in CBFC; Ministry orders probe

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Friday deputed a senior official to conduct an inquiry into the allegation of corruption in the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) made by Tamil actor-producer Vishal.

Noting that the issue raised by the actor was "extremely unfortunate", the Ministry said that the government had zero tolerance for corruption, vowing that strict action would be taken against anyone found involved.

Vishal alleged he had paid ₹6.5 lakh bribe for his film *Mark Antony*'s Hindi version.

"A senior officer from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been deputed to Mumbai to conduct an inquiry today itself. We request everyone to cooperate with the Ministry, by providing information about any other instance of harassment by CBFC at jsfilms.inb@nic.in," the Ministry said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

On Thursday, Mr. Vishal had posted his allegation on the social media platform.

"Corruption being shown on silver screen is fine. But not in real life. Can't digest. Especially in govt offices. And even worse happening in #CBFC Mumbai office. Had to pay 6.5 lacs for my film #MarkAntonyHindi version," he alleged. The actor gave the transaction details of two payments, ₹3 lakh for screening and ₹3.50 lakh for a certificate for the film, made to the accounts of two people.

"...never faced this situation ever in my career. Had no option but to pay the concerned mediator #Menaga coz too much at stake since movie released today.Bringing this to the notice of Hon Chief Minister of Maharashtra and my Hon PM Narendra Modiji. Doing this is not for me but for future producers," he had posted.

Venugopal asks Telangana backward classes leaders not to go to media

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The much-awaited meeting of the Telangana Congress BC leaders with the AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal in New Delhi gave them hope that their issues would be taken seriously, but at the same time they also got an 'advice' not to go to the media with their demands but raise them internally. Sources said that Mr. Venugopal was bit annoyed with the way the BC leaders went to the press at a time when the party was seeing an upswing, and such developments could harm the party interests. He told them that Congress was a democratic party and anyone could reach out to the party leadership about their concerns.

He assured them that Congress would give more seats to backward classes than the ruling BRS. He also ruled out the apprehensions that the final decision would depend only on the survey results.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Chandan Manche Gowda, S/o Sri Manche Gowda, R/o J.M. Road, Mudigere Town, intends to buy RCC. Residential Apartment bearing BBMP No.1, Old No. 130/1, 130, PID. No. 58-6-1-1, situated in 35th Cross, 15th Main, 4th T Block, New Ward No. 168, (Old No. 58), Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 004, more fully described in the schedule hereunder written, from Sri. N.J. Niranjan and Kumari N.N. Anisha, R/o 35th Cross, 15th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 004. If anybody has any claim, right, title or interest in respect of the schedule property, he/she/they may lodge his/her/their right to the following address within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this notice and any claim lodged later than 15 days, will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

RCC. Residential Apartment bearing BBMP. No.1, Old No. 130/1, 130, PID. No. 58-6-1/1, situated in 35 Cross, 15™ Main, 4th T. Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru 560004 having the following measurements:

1) Eastern Portion of the Second Floor measuring 704.5 sq. feet. 2) Entire Third Floor measuring 1528 sq. feet excluding Stair-case and lift area. 3) Entire Fourth Floor measuring 1391 sq. feet excluding lift, lobby and passage area. 4) Car Parking area measuring 300 sq. feet in the Ground Floor together with 50% undivided right, title and interest and share over East-West: 60 feet, North-south: 38 feet.

Place: Chikkamagaluru, Date:29-09-2023.

D.L. Ramanujachar B.Sc., LL.B.,
'Sri. Venkatesha Nilaya', Suggikal Road,Foet, Chikkamagaluru-577101.
Mob. No. 9448945200.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. ARUN PRATHAP .B, S/o. Mr. Baskaran .P intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner M/s. SDR Constructions, Represented by its Managing Partners Mr. Gopi Reddy Sreenivasulu & Mr. G. V. Ramana Reddy having its office at No. 2, 3, 4 Gayathri Enclave, NRI Layout, Double Road, Kalkere, Bangalore- 560 043.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 203, measuring 1325 Sq. Ft. of SBA in the Second Floor in the project known as "SRI GAYATHRI NEST". Constructed in the Plot No. 3, BBMP khata No. 189/261/4/3, formed in Old Sy. No. 523, New Sy. No. 523/1 Situated at Banjara Layout, Kalkere Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on: East by : Site No. 02, West by : Site No. 04, North by : Private Property, South by : 25 feet Road.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY,
ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR,
Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 29-09-2023

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-01/05/2023-24 Date: 27.09.2023

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 69(3) of
The Karnataka Town & Country Planning ACT, 1961]

Smt R.Shobha W/o M.Manjunath has applied to Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority seeking to assign land use from "Park and Open space" to "Residential" use under Sec 69(3) of the KTCP Act, 1961, for land in Sy.No:14/2 Extent 01A-13G of Rachanamadu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

As per the approved Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority's Master plan the proposed land is earmarked for Park and Open space, The proposed land is surrounded by Residential developments.

Therefore in order to assign land use from Park and Open spaces to Residential use, any Objections to the above land are invited from the public and any person may file his/her objection to the Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore in writing with supporting documents and reasons for the same within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1482/SPAN/23-24

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4
Canal Division, Sirwar,Tq:Dist:Raichur

ಸಂ: ಕಾನಿ�additional:4/ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ/ತಾಶಾ/2701–Tender/2023–24/ 395
ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.09.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement only)

For the year 2023-24 total Four works from Rs. 122.54 Lakhs to 143.97 Lakhs percentage tenders for Two- cover system through e-procurement platform are invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 Canal Division, Sirwar on Behalf of The Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building, Dr.B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-01 from eligible registered contractor enrolled in Labour Department Last date for submission of completed tender document is up to 14.10.2023 up to 4.00 PM. All other details of work & terms and conditions can be obtained through website kppp.kar.gov.in or in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Corrigendum will be published in website kppp.kar.gov.in for all modifications/ corrections, if any.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, No.4 Canal Division ,
Sirwar.

DIP/RCR/155/KSMC&A/Job No.152/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Rural Development & Panchayat Department
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
No.: R.W.S.&S./D/C/EE/B4/Tender/2023-24/702 Date: 22.09.2023

Tender Notice

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tender is invited in single and two cover system, through e-procurement portal, subject to Standard Tender Document KW-2 & 3 Conditions, from eligible class registered contractors registered with Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Circle, Davanagere/Chief Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bengaluru for 02 works of Rs. 87.18 lakhs in the limits of Chitradurga Taluk, 25 works of Rs. 1134.88 lakhs in the limits of Hiriyuru Taluk, 04 works of Rs. 187.80 lakhs in the limits of Holalkere Taluk and 25 works of Rs. 1257.72 lakhs in the limits of Hosadurga Taluk under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme for the year 2022-23. Last date for submission of Tender: 30.09.2023, 4.00 PM. Date of opening the Technical Bid: 03.10.2023 at 4.30 PM and Date of opening the Financial Bid: 04.10.2023 at 11.00 AM. Details of the work are published in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further information contact the Executive Engineer, R.W.S & S. Division, Chitradurga during working hours of the office.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/231/2023-24

Executive Engineer,
R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bengaluru: CERA launches company owned display studio in Bengaluru.

Premium Bathroom Solutions provider CERA inaugurates company owned display studio in JP Nagar, Bengaluru. CERA Style Studio inauguration was done by Joint Managing Director, Mrs. Deepshikha Khaitan along with company officials Mr. Rahul Jain (President Marketing), Mr. Sandeep Abraham (President Sales), Mr. G.V. Chowdary (General Manager Sales) in the presence of eminent architects, developers and Channel partners. ADVT.

As quoted by Mrs. Deepshikha Khaitan, "We are delighted to open the doors of our CERA Style Studio in Bengaluru for the Architects, Developers and Customers. This showroom is a reflection of our dedication, excellence and continuous innovation in our core business categories – Sanitaryware, Faucets & Tiles. Cera's commitment to provide the best to our customers, and we are excited to share this exciting chapter with all of you."

For more details please visit us at www.cera-india.com and follow on social media - Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin, Twitter & Youtube.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

We have lost all our original House documents namely; Original Sale Deed, Permission Letters for Mortgaging, Possession Certificate, Agreement for payment of site value, Allotment letter, Application for allotment of Building Site and also other documents related to construction of house, which is in the name of my father Late H Rudrappa R/of # 405, 65th Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010. In this regard, I have filed an FIR in the Police Station vide Lost Article Report No. 0738060/2023 U/s.155 of Cr.PC dated 22.09.2023, if anybody finds the above mentioned documents may kindly contact the below within Seven (7) days from the date of this public notice.

Dr H R Prabha,
No.122, 3rd B Cross, 7th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072
(M) 9480505307 / 9845736357 / 7676591979

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Extended exclusion

With or without AFSPA, Centre should not allow Manipur situation to fester

Hill areas in Manipur will continue to be under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for another six months from October. The State government has issued a notification to extend the law's imposition to the whole State, barring the areas falling under 19 police stations in the Imphal valley. The notification maintains the status quo on the applicability of the potent law that grants extensive powers to the armed forces in notified 'disturbed areas' in the use of force. In normal circumstances, the only question that may have arisen is whether AFSPA is needed any longer. However, given the violent ethnic conflict since this May between the Meitei and the Kuki communities, the exclusion of the Imphal Valley from its purview even while extending it elsewhere comes across as quite ironical. The Army had sought its re-imposition in the Valley districts, as it felt that the absence of the law is hampering its operations against insurgent groups, which may be using the unrest to gain a foothold in the State. It can be nobody's case that AFSPA should remain or its ambit increased; but it is difficult to avoid the question whether, if at all AFSPA is needed for some more time, areas that have witnessed considerable violence in recent months should remain excluded.

Perhaps, the government's logic is that AFSPA is meant only to provide legal protection to forces engaged in counter-insurgency operations and not those engaged in law and order duty amidst internal conflict. However, the exclusion of the valley districts from AFSPA at this stage is liable to be interpreted as yet another instance of the government's partisan conduct. One of the reasons for the government maintaining the status quo on the extent of the 'disturbed areas' is that a detailed assessment of the ground situation is not possible at the moment when the security agencies are engaged in maintaining law and order. Further, the notification says the issue of declaring an area as 'disturbed' is quite sensitive and it may lead to public criticism and resistance. The only possible interpretation is that the fear of displeasing the majority Meitei seems to be the core aspect of the government's policy. In the backdrop of the hostility of the community towards the Assam Rifles, and the Assam Rifles' apprehension that trucks made to resemble its vehicles may be used to commit offences in a bid to tarnish its image, the situation is rife with possibilities of further conflict. The Centre should not delay any further a serious initiative to bring about reconciliation between the two communities, lest the situation fester and deteriorate.

Troubled waters

China and Philippines should desist from raising the risk in South China Sea

The move by the Philippines to remove a 300-metre floating barrier installed by China near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea and Beijing's warning to Manila asking it "not to stir up trouble" underscore how delicate the situation is in one of the world's busiest waters. Tensions were high between China, which claims much of the South China Sea, including areas away from its coast, and a more assertive Philippines in recent months. Manila has repeatedly accused Beijing of blocking its shipping vessels in and around the Scarborough Shoal, a triangular reef encircling a resource-rich lagoon that China seized from the Philippines in 2012. When the Philippines realised that China's forces were setting up a barrier blocking Filipino fishermen from getting closer to the reef – it was fully accessible until 2012 – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered its removal at the risk of inflaming tensions with Beijing. The Philippines sent Coast Guard crew in a boat to the Shoal, who dived and cut the rope that anchored the buoy line. Malaysia and Indonesia, which also have disputes with China, have sent vessels to the disputed waters for survey at various times this year. Manila's action underscores the trend of smaller countries in the region trying to be more assertive in their maritime claims as China tightens its hold over the South China Sea.

Under Rodrigo Duterte, the former President, the Philippines tried to play down its tensions with China, even though Manila got a favourable ruling from an international tribunal in 2016 over Beijing's claims in the South China Sea. However, Mr. Marcos Jr., who assumed office in June last year, has taken a different approach. His administration has named and shamed China's high-handedness even as it has strengthened defence and strategic ties with Washington, its former colonial master. In February, the countries announced a defence cooperation agreement, which provides the U.S. access to nine Philippine bases, from the previous five. In April, the Philippines hosted its largest joint military exercises with the U.S. Enhanced cooperation with the U.S., with assurances from Washington that the mutual defence treaty "extends to Philippine public vessels, aircraft, armed forces and the Coast Guard", seems to have emboldened Manila in its disputes with Beijing. But such actions carry risks, which could lead to tensions spiralling out of control. The U.S. and its Pacific allies might get dragged into a conflict between China and the Philippines, potentially turning the South China Sea into a battle theatre, which is in nobody's interest. Both China and the Philippines should be mindful of the risks that their actions pose to the world and be ready to engage in talks and establish guardrails, ensuring stability in their volatile relationship.

Push for more women, this time in the police

R.K. Vij

is a retired Indian Police Service Officer

In a few years from now, women lawmakers will form at least 33% of all lawmakers in India. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. This Bill provides for one-third of total seats in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of every State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to be reserved for women for 15 years. Additionally, this reservation will also extend to seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. The representation of women Members of Parliament in the current Lok Sabha is about 14.4%, compared to 4.9% in the first Lok Sabha in 1952.

The purpose of this amendment is to increase women's participation in policymaking. However, as the amendment has caveats, experts are of the view that the earliest this amendment can be implemented is the general election of 2029, provided Census 2021, which is pending, is taken up soon and the process of delimitation is carried out without delay. Otherwise, implementation will be delayed till the general election of 2034. While there is no direct link between the number of legislators and the strength of law enforcement agencies, the number of women in these gives a fair idea about how representative these institutions are of the society they represent.

Reservation, actual availability in the police

Most States have a policy to fill up 30% or 33% of the vacant posts (of direct recruitment) with women in their police forces through horizontal reservation – i.e., if the minimum reserved vacant posts are not filled up in each category of the SC, ST, Other Backward Classes and un-reserved with women on merit, women candidates are pushed up in the list to make up for the gap. The reservation for women in the State armed police forces is restricted to 10% in some States. Women are generally recruited against notified vacancies after permission is granted by the government to fill up vacancies.

The 'Data on Police Organizations', a publication by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) shows that while the total available strength of the State police forces increased by about 7.48% in the last five years, i.e., from about 19.26 lakh as on January 1, 2017, to about 20.70 lakh as on January 1, 2021 (against a sanctioned strength of 24.64 lakh and 26.31 lakh, respectively), the representation of women in the State police force increased from 1,40,184 to 2,17,026 in the same period, which is about 7.28% and 10.47% of the total available force, respectively. Though the data for the year 2021 (as on January 1, 2022) has not been published, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Rajya Sabha in February 2023 that the representation of women in the police force (as of January 1, 2022) remained at 11.7% of the total State police force.

> States in India need to act as data show that the available women force is insufficient even in dealing with cases of law and order that are related to women

According to the details published by the BPR&D (as on January 1, 2021), a few States such as Kerala, Mizoram and Goa do not have a policy of reservation for women in the police force, but women's representation in these States varies between 6% and 11%. Bihar provides for 35% reservation for women and 3% for backward caste women, but the actual number of women in the force is about 17.4%. Chandigarh has a maximum percentage of women (about 22%) in the police force, while Jammu and Kashmir has the minimum (about 3.3%). Himachal Pradesh has not notified reservation for women, but 20% vacancies of constables are filled up by women. Though the MHA has repeatedly asked States to increase the representation of women in the police force to 33%, the actual availability remains low. Many States do not have a permanent police recruitment board and do not have a free hand to undertake recruitment at regular intervals.

Assuming that the attrition rate in the police forces is about 2.5% to 3% and the annual sanction of new posts to be about 1.5% to 2%, recruitment is done only against about 4% to 5% of the total posts. Thus, going by the past, it would take not less than 20 years to increase women's representation from 10% to 30% in the entire police force.

Crime data and need for more women police

With 'criminal law' and 'criminal procedure' on the Concurrent List, the central government has made various amendments in these laws; certain reports and statements are to be mandatorily recorded by a woman police officer. Arrest and search of a woman accused must be done by a woman police officer.

According to National Crime Records Bureau data, about 10% of the total crime defined under the Indian Penal Code was committed against women and about 5.3% of total arrested persons in 2021 were women. Therefore, the available women force is insufficient even in dealing with cases that are related to women. Women are also needed for law-and-order and day-to-day duties. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has further enlarged the scope of women recruitment in the police force.

It is undisputed that women can handle any assignment in a police institution. They have already proved their mettle in most police duties. In a democratic country, every institution needs to be truly representative of its populace to win their trust.

Efforts must be made

'Police' being a 'State' subject in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the implementation of 'police reforms' remains primarily a concern of the States. The MHA began providing financial incentives from 2018-19 (by reserving 10% in the first year and 20% of total modernisation funds thereafter) to States that implement police reforms to a satisfactory level. Merging women police with the regular police was one such reform. Similarly, though the establishment of the Police Recruitment Board was another such reform, many States were not enthusiastic about implementing this, and, consequently, did not get this benefit. The 'satisfaction level' with family quarters (as on January 1, 2021) was only about 30%. The MHA also provided a special grant to encourage States to establish a 'women desk' in every police station. But there are not enough women personnel to handle them in the districts. The MHA also has a special provision in the modernisation plan to build separate toilets for women staff, and ensure crèche facilities for children in every police station which is sanctioned thus.

Efforts should be made to encourage more women to join the police force – for this, a conductive environment and basic infrastructure are a minimum necessity. A uniform Police Act for the entire country may help the Centre frame uniform standards for women police also. Every State should have a recruitment board to ensure recruitment on a regular basis. Taking a step forward, a special drive should be launched by all States and Union Territories to recruit more women and increase their representation in the police force, just as the Constitutional 128th amendment for women in legislatures would do in the near future.

The views expressed are personal

Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review

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The recently concluded G-20 Declaration, among its many commitments, reiterated the need to pursue reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve all its functions and conduct proactive discussions "to ensure a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024".

The WTO's dispute settlement system, conceived as a two-tier panel cum appellate body structure, has been dysfunctional since 2019, because the United States has blocked the appointment of appellate body members. Hailed as the crown jewel of the WTO, the dispute settlement system, with the scope for appellate review and mechanisms to enforce rulings, has issued over 493 rulings since its establishment in 1995. To put this in context, the International Court of Justice has dealt with only around 190 cases since 1947. The appellate body has been crucial in ensuring coherence and predictability in rulings, ensuring confidence in the WTO dispute settlement process.

While the commitment expressed in the G-20 Declaration is heartening, whether it will have an appellate process or just be a one-stage panel process, given Washington's continued opposition to an appellate review process, remains to be seen. The U.S. seems inclined towards the dejudicialisation of international trade law – an approach whereby countries take back control from international courts and tribunals. However, as with adjudication in national courts, the appellate review process at the international level serves as an essential check on the interpretation and application of law and ensures consistency.

On the ISDS

While the future of the WTO's appellate process is uncertain, another area of international law witnessing the formative stages for an appellate process is international investment law through investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS), an ubiquitous component of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs). The ISDS today is the principal means to settle international investment law disputes. Till January 1, 2023, 1,257 ISDS cases have been initiated. India has had a chequered history with ISDS, with five adverse awards: four in favour, and several pending claims.

> Since India's quest has been to establish a rule-based global order, its support for an appellate review will ensure more state and investor confidence in international investment law

Benefits of an appellate review

A critical structural facet of the ISDS mechanism (also present in India's BITs and a few free trade agreements) is that it operates through ad hoc or one-off arbitration tribunals without any appellate review. In international investment law, hundreds of ISDS tribunals operating under different arbitral institutions have, on several occasions, offered diverging interpretations of the same treaty provision. Likewise, these tribunals have reached opposite conclusions despite interpreting and applying the same treaty to the same facts.

The absence of an appellate review mechanism has meant that inconsistent and incoherent decisions and legal reasoning dot the landscape of international investment law. This has caused instability and improbability for states and foreign investors, making the regime chaotic.

An appellate review mechanism will allow for rectifying errors of law and harmonising diverging interpretations. It will have the power to uphold, modify, or reverse the decision of a first-tier tribunal and thus bring coherence and consistency, which, in turn, will infuse predictability and certainty into the ISDS system. An appellate mechanism will also be better than existing mechanisms such as the annulment proceedings, which only apply to arbitrations administered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes – an institution India is not a member of. Further, such annulment proceedings can only address limited issues, such as the improper constitution of an arbitration tribunal or corruption but cannot correct errors in legal interpretation. The appellate mechanism will also be superior to getting an ISDS award set aside on limited procedural grounds in a court at the seat of arbitration.

Discussions on creating an appellate review mechanism are ongoing at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law or UNCITRAL's working group III, deliberating on ISDS reforms. There are several critical issues in creating an appellate review, such as what form it should take – an ad hoc appellate mechanism (a body constituted by the disputing parties on a case-by-case basis) or a standing appellate mechanism; what the standard to review the decisions of the first-tier tribunal should be; and what the time frame and the effect of the decision should be. These issues will, hopefully, be thrashed out at UNCITRAL.

India's stand

Although India has not made a formal statement on this issue, India, presumably, supports the idea of an appellate review in the ISDS because Article 29 of the Indian model BIT talks of it. Given India's concerns about inconsistency and incoherence in the ISDS system, supporting the creation of an appellate review mechanism will be in India's interest.

In any case, India will have to take a stand on this issue as part of the ongoing investment treaty negotiations with the European Union, which is championing the creation of an appellate review mechanism for investment disputes. Since India's quest has always been to establish a rule-based global order, it should support an appellate review which will usher in greater confidence for states and investors in international investment law. For those same reasons, India should also push for the restoration of the WTO appellate body towards achieving the goal of a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system at the WTO.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The passing of a titan

India has lost a noble son (Page 1, "Architect of India's Green Revolution departs", September 29). Along with illustrious politician and then Union Agriculture Minister C. Subramaniam, M.S. Swaminathan gave fillip to the farm sector which changed the face of Indian agriculture. M.S. Swaminathan is an example of a sedulous, disciplined and determined work culture. The best tribute we can pay him is to rename the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University after him and institute an award in his name to honour people who excel in agriculture and horticulture.

K. Chellappan,
Chennai

The United Progressive Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance governments have miserably failed in honouring two eminent Indian personalities: Verghese Kurian, father of the White Revolution, and M.S. Swaminathan, father of the Green Revolution, with the Bharat Ratna. They were two giants who rendered yeomen service not only to India but also to other developing countries.

Fiona Waltair,
Chennai

Distressing

The report about the sexual assault on a minor girl in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh leaves one traumatised. That not many were willing to help the child, who was left semi-clad and bleeding, is a case of appalling societal attitude towards rape survivors. There needs to be a more compassionate environment for survivors.

Sanjit Pal Singh,
Nawabganj, West Bengal

It is heart-wrenching that the girl did not receive help initially, exposing the lack of civility and a medieval mindset. How the gory incident in a big city escaped the surveillance of law enforcement agencies merits an in-depth probe.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Two recent incidents have shown the country's cruel and ugly face. The first is the assault on the minor girl and the subsequent indifference to her plight. One can only presume that she is from a humble background, impoverished and vulnerable. The second is the ruthless killing of a 22-year-old specially-abled and hungry man from a minority community who is alleged to have stolen *prasad* from a stall near a temple in Delhi. Man's inhumanity to man could not have been worse.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

A pat for India

The Indian team's top standing in the equestrian events at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, is rosy and heartening. This is one sport that needs much encouragement in India.

Zafar Rashid Futehally,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Kanti Parmar at his ration shop in Kanosan, in Patan district, Gujarat. VIJAY SONEJI

A feud over grains

In Kanosan village in Patan district of Gujarat, a Dalit ration shop owner's family members allege that they are being discriminated against by the upper caste Thakors, who stopped getting provisions from them two years ago. While the district collector has found stock irregularities, the incident has brought to the spotlight the underlying caste tensions in the village, reports **Maitri Porecha**

Kanti Parmar lies on a cot under a tree in his courtyard, fussing over the white plaster wrapped over the stump of his left leg. Kanti, 60, is the owner of the sole ration shop in Kanosan village in Patan district of north Gujarat. His son Mukesh says Kanti, a Dalit, was deeply affected after villagers, a majority of whom are upper caste Thakors, stopped picking up rations from his shop a while ago. Earlier this year, Kanti attempted suicide in Patan, and was rescued by passers-by. He lost a leg in the process.

To add insult to injury, on September 12, the Patan district collector, Arvind Vijayan, issued an order that all the 436 ration card holders of Kanosan can now buy rations from the neighbouring village, Edla. Vijayan says he issued the order after 300 ration card holders wrote him a letter on March 23 saying that they were unwilling to pick up grain stock from Kanti's shop.

"While about 230 families used to visit our shop to collect rations earlier, we lost our customer base after the village boycotted us," Mukesh says. While Kanti's family allege that they are being discriminated against because they are Chamars, Scheduled Castes (SCs) who traditionally skin dead animals for a living, the Thakors, who are agriculturalists and land owners, allege that the villagers would not get the grain that was due to them at Kanti's shop. They were therefore compelled to turn to other villages.

> While about 230 families used to visit our shop to collect rations earlier, we lost our customer base after the village boycotted us
>
> **MUKESH**
> Son of ration shop owner

An old rivalry

Nearly 2 kilometres from Kanosan, a muddy kuccha road leads to 12 acres of lush green farms. White blobs of cotton, short shoots of castor, and tall flourishing pearl millets await harvest. The entrance of the farm is gated. The owner, Jakta Thakor, 78, enjoys an afternoon nap while a dozen of his cows moo in the shed nearby.

Jakta is currently *tadipaar* (legally restrained from entering the village limits) and has been living on his farm since June 9 this year. Jakta and three of his associates – Prakash Abhesang Thakor, 37; Gena Shambhu Thakor, 55; and Laxman Madhu Thakor, 75 – have all been barred from entering the village by Bipin Barot, Special Judge (Atrocities), Patan, after Mukesh filed a First Information Report (FIR) against them claiming that they were responsible for harassing Kanti and for his subsequent suicide attempt. The FIR mentions Sections 506(1) (criminal intimidation), 294(B) (uttering obscene words), and 114 (abettor present when offence is committed) of the Indian Penal Code; and sections 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s) (arrest without warrant), 3(1)(zc) (imposes or threatens social or economic boycott of SC/Scheduled Tribe (ST) person), and 3(2)(va) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Jakta and Kanti began the ration shop in 1994, with the service being in Kanti's name. "In the 1990s, SCs could more easily obtain licenses for ration shops or fair price shops. I had proposed that Kanti get a license in his name, and had given him space and investment to start a fair price shop. We were supposed to run it as partners," Jakta says, meaning that they had an agreement to split the profit in half. But the 'joint venture' turned ugly as the two men repeatedly fought on the question of dividing profits. "I eventually decided to withdraw from the shop and Kanti shifted its location," says Jakta, of his decision in 1999.

Soon, lines were drawn in the village. Nearly 200 of the 436 ration card holders stopped patronising Kanti's shop. For every 100 kg of stock sold, a ration shop owner earns a commission of ₹150. "We used to earn between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 a month as only half the cardholders in the village were coming to us to pick up grain. The other half used to pick it up from a makeshift store running out of Prakash Thakor's house," says Mukesh. These provisions were bought from the neighbouring villages of Melusana, Nayta, Vagdod, and Edla, Kanti alleges.

Between 1994 and 2023, Kanti registered multiple police complaints against Jakta and his friends, including a case of kidnapping in 1998 and another case of violence against Kanti's wife Kantaben, and his father Virabhai.

Kantaben, who has faint scars from stitches on her head, alleges that while she, Virabhai, and two other members of their family were walking towards their house, about five upper caste men attacked them and hit them on the head with sticks in 2001. "I cannot forget the horror of that day. My fingers were badly hurt and one of them has been badly twisted since," she says pointing to the middle finger of her left hand.

The feud between Kanti and the Thakor community was reported in the local media at the time. In 2005, the elders in the village urged them to resolve their issues. "We arrived at a *samaadhan* or a mutual conclusion that we will end our fight by signing papers. But our problems have continued," says Mukesh. Not only did the Thakors turn the people who were collecting rations from Kanti's shop against him, and pass a resolution in the Panchayat with written representations of people saying that they want their ration cards transferred to another shop, but they also blocked the sewage line of his house, alleges Mukesh.

Indirect control

Following collector Vijayan's order of September 12, the Thakors in Kanosan have indirectly assumed control of the grain supply.

Shailesh Thakor, an associate of Jakta, takes out his mobile phone and deftly punches in the login ID and password of Edla's ration shop owner on the e-public distribution system (PDS) website run by the Gujarat government. Shailesh says he runs the Edla shop "in partnership with" Vinu Rabari, who is cited as the official owner of the Edla shop.

Jakta Thakor at his farm house in Kanosan. VIJAY SONEJI

"With the collector's order that all ration cards be transferred to the neighbouring shop, Kanti does not have sales. On the other hand, doubling the number of cards in Edla's ration shop is a way of ensuring that the shop owner of Edla gets more commission," Shailesh explains.

On March 9, 2022, Kanti wrote to the Patan district collector saying that he was unable to supply ration to Prakash Abhaysingh Thakor, as Thakor's APL (above poverty line) ration card was not functional. After Kanti's refusal to disburse grain, he alleged in a written representation that in a bid to take over supply of ration, Jakta, the former sarpanch of the village, along with his associates, tried to take over the disbursement.

A fair price shop owner needs to obtain the biometrics of all the ration card holders who punch in with their thumb before collecting their monthly quota of rice, wheat, *bajra* (pearl millet), sugar, salt, and oil. The ration shop owner must ensure that the ration card holder receives the ration allotted to them. They must also give the holder a printout of a coupon or a receipt, which provides this information.

> Post-COVID, there were a series of allegations in writing against the ration shop owner that he was not meting out adequate supply to the beneficiaries. We launched an investigation and found a mismatch in stock.
>
> **ARVIND VIJAYAN**
> District Collector

In his written complaint to the collector, Kanti alleged that Jakta had earlier borrowed the PDS software system of an e-PDS from the neighbouring village of Nayta, where the ration shop is run by Odharji Thakor. He also alleged in his written complaint to the district collector that Prakash, Shailesh, and Gena addressed him by a slur used for "lower" caste communities, which were for a long time considered "untouchable."

He said in the complaint that the upper caste men told the villagers not to go pick up grain from the homes of lower-caste people. He said they say, "*Saalo Thakor na gaam ma Dhedh ketlaak varsho thi badhane nachaave che* (A lower caste person is making everyone dance to his tunes for many years in a Thakor-majority village)" and "*Saala Dhedha tane to amo licence radd karavi ne rahishu, karan ke tu khubaj maatha bhaare thai gayo che* (We will ensure that your licence gets cancelled, as you have become a headache for us)."

Mukesh says they have no problem if the villagers go to another village on their own to pick up stock, but they do have a problem with the Thakors systemically turning the villagers against them and facilitating alternative modes of stock distribution. "They want to snatch away our licence," he says.

Different versions of the truth

After receiving multiple complaints from Thakors in the district collector's office and taluka office since 2021 alleging irregular supply of ration, the executive magistrate of Saraswati tehsil ordered a detailed inquiry under the Gujarat Essential Commodities Order, 2004.

After the probe, the district collectorate slapped a penalty of ₹51,397 on July 7 on Kanti. The collectorate said there was a mismatch in the online quantity of grain stock sold and the physical stock at Kanti's shop. "When the physical stock was compared with the online stock, an excess of 728.5 kilos of wheat, 254 kilos of rice, 71 kilos of salt, 95.75 kilos of sugar, two pouches of cottonseed oil, two kilos of bajra, and 8 kilos of pulses were found in the shop," noted D.S. Ninama, district supplies officer, Patan, in his penalty notice.

But Kanti's case is not a lone one. In 2021, 291 ration shops were fined up to ₹60 lakh for misconduct, show the audits accessed by *The Hindu* from the district collector's office. In 2022, 252 ration shops were fined ₹9.17 lakh.

"I have acted in the capacity of head of supply of the district," says Vijayan. "Post-COVID, there were a series of allegations in writing against the ration shop owner that he was not meting out adequate supply to the beneficiaries and that certain stock irregularities were also found. Pursuant to these allegations, we launched an investigation and found a mismatch in stock. It is unfortunate that an administrative order has been twisted, and a caste angle has been attached to it."

Mukesh says he spent ₹8-9 lakh after his father's hospitalisation, and was unable to cough up the penalty levied by the collector's office.

Refuting the inquiry by the collectorate of the grain mismatch, Mukesh claims that villagers would give their biometrics, go out to work in the field, and then return later to collect their ration. Sometimes, they would delay stock collection, he says. The collector's office says that the onus of timely disbursement of grain lies on the ration shop owner.

Mukesh also alleges that the villagers gave their representations and signatures under duress and that one of the signatories, Mogha Thakor, was long dead. "Mogha died on December 25, 2017, at Dharpur Hospital. I have submitted his death certificate to the collector's office," says Mukesh. "So how did they get his thumb print?"

Jakta alleges that Kanti has been slapping cases of atrocities against him and others for money. Under the SC and ST Act, each time a complainant files an FIR or a charge sheet is filed and the accused convicted, the complainant gets compensated. The sum ranges from ₹1 lakh to ₹8 lakh based on the severity of the offence.

The village sarpanch of Kanosan, Raghu Thakor, is Jakta's grandson. Raghu, who is in his 20s, refuses to comment on the issue. His grandfather runs all operations in the village, he says.

Villagers say Kanti would often delay giving them the grain stock that they were entitled to get, and that they had to pay multiple visits to him to receive their ration. "We were dissatisfied with the experience at Kanti's ration shop. However, we also fear that he will slap false cases of atrocities on us as he has done with a few members of our community. We constantly live under this fear. Therefore, we go to pick up stock from the neighbouring village. We want to steer clear of any controversy and do not want to be caught in ugly long-standing fight," says a Thakor who did not wish to be named.

While the majority of the households belong to Thakors, the rest belong to Dalits and Other Backward Classes. "I support Kanti *vira* (brother) in his fight, but I'm scared of what will happen if my name comes out in the public domain. So, I choose to stay silent," says a villager of the Valmiki community, another SC.

Meanwhile, Kanti has been issued a show cause notice for a hearing at the district collector's office on October 9. He has been asked to explain why his licence should not be cancelled given that nearly 258 ration card holders have alleged they do not get adequate ration in a timely manner from his shop.

"The collector's order is very harsh. We are contemplating moving the High Court against it," says Mukesh.

From Page One

CWMA upholds panel's decision in Cauvery row

According to the data of the Central Water Commission available up to September 26 this year, the realisation of the Cauvery water at Biligundulu this month was 11.8 tmc ft and since June 1, the total was 43.73 tmc ft. In a normal year, the State should have got nearly 75 tmc ft more as of now.

As on Friday morning, four reservoirs of Karnataka in the Cauvery basin had a combined gross storage of 59.65 tmc ft. As per the latest direction of the CWMA, Karnataka will have to release totally 5.38 tmc ft till October 15.

Nothing on fact-finding panel

Asked whether either of the States raised the issue of sending a fact-finding committee to ascertain the level of distress in the Cauvery basin, Mr. Haldar replied in the negative.

A similar panel was constituted by the Union government on October 4, 2016, on the direction of the Supreme Court.

After visiting these two States, the panel submitted its report on October 17 that year. In its conclusions, the panel did not quantify how much water should be released by Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. But it indicated that while Karnataka should appreciate the matter of protection of established irrigation in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the lower basin State should factor in the aspirations of the upper riparian State for developing its network.

World is taking note of rising India's resolve, says Army chief

Stance on Ukraine conflict is a fine example of how New Delhi stood steadfast on addressing 'legitimate pursuits' of national interests, says Gen. Pande; he also cites 2020 stand-off with China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict is a fine example of how New Delhi stood "steadfast and clear" towards addressing "legitimate pursuits" of its national interests, Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Friday.

He said the resolute and firm manner with which the country stood up to its northern adversary, during the events of April-May 2020, made the world take notice of the "political and military resolve of a rising India".

Talking about the rise of China, General Pande said possession of political, economic, technological, and military power had accorded it a new position in the world order, which it intended to lead.

"With its economic heft, China has been looking at geopolitical and trade engagements as zero-sum games. Concurrently, Chinese belligerence is evident in its continuing propensity to project power outside its region, in turn presenting a threat to 'rules-based international order'", he said while addressing the annual session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Major plans: The Army chief said 340 indigenous defence industries are working towards fructification of 230 contracts by 2025. PTI

Many nations today also appear ready to take the China issue head-on, especially post-pandemic, as realisation of its predatory economic pursuits sinks in, he added.

Stating that as India's influence expanded, new challenges were bound to emerge, the Army chief noted that the most important pointer for India was that the legacy challenges of unsettled boundaries continue and stand amplified due to "collusivity between our western and northern adversaries".

Talking of military modernisation, General Pande said the Army's transformation endeavour stood on the edifice of five pillars – force restructuring and optimisation; modernisation and tech infusion; systems, processes and functions; human resource management; and jointness and integration.

In this regard, he said, the Indian defence industry was rising up to the challenge. "We have 340 indigenous defence industries working towards fructification of 230 contracts by 2025, that entail an outlay of ₹2.5 lakh crore."

Apart from weapon systems and equipment, the Army is also pursuing 47 niche technologies which it has identified for military application, and 120 indigenous projects are under way to develop and absorb these niche technologies, the Army chief said, adding that the wide participation of indigenous industry and signing of contracts under the emergency procurement provisions proved that the domestic industry had the capability and capacity to deliver solutions to meet defence requirements.

'Age of consent under POCSO must remain'

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The government should not tinker with the age of consent – currently 18 years – under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Law Commission said in a report made public on Friday. Instead, it advised the introduction of "guided judicial discretion" while sentencing in cases that involve the tacit approval of children in the 16 to 18 years age bracket.

The 22nd Law Commission, headed by Justice (Retired) Ritu Raj Awasthi, submitted its report (no. 283) to the Law Ministry on September 27. It was posted on the Ministry website on Friday. In the report, the Law panel noted that certain amendments would be required in the POCSO Act, 2012 to remedy the situation in cases involving tacit approval, though not consent under law, on the part of children aged between 16 and 18 years.

The panel said that reducing the age of consent would have a direct and negative bearing on the fight against child marriage and child trafficking; it also advised the courts to tread with caution even in cases related to "adolescent love", where criminal intention may be missing.

In his covering letter to Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Justice Awasthi wrote, "...the Commission is of the measured view that it is not advisable to tinker with the existing age of consent under the POCSO Act". The reference on the age of consent was made to the Law Commission on November 9, 2022 by the Karnataka HC (Dharwad Bench), which asked the Commission "to rethink on the age criteria for consent, taking into consideration the rising number of cases relating to minor girls above the age of 16 years falling in love, eloping and having sexual intercourse with the boy".

A similar reference was also made by the Madhya Pradesh High Court (Gwalior Bench) in April this year, where the Court noted that the enforcement of the POCSO Act, in its present form, "causes injustice in cases of statutory rape where *de facto* consent is present".

Umbrella body of civil society groups to back INDIA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Friday received the support of an umbrella body of civil society groups called the Bharat Jodo Abhiyan.

The announcement was made at a meeting in Delhi attended by several Opposition leaders. They will start a drive from October 2 to mobilise 1.25 lakh volunteers who will then campaign in 125 to 150 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Speaking at the conclusion of the day-long National Convention for 'Democracy, Secularism and Social Justice', political activist Yogendra Yadav said that with the INDIA bloc's emergence, the country had an alternative to the BJP. "We aim to provide selfless and unconditional support, providing a cultural grounding for electoral politics," he added.

Govt. carrying out a 'planned euthanasia' of MGNREGS: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government was carrying out a "planned euthanasia" of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by "inordinately delaying" the funding of social audits and denying the funds to the States for lack of audits, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said, reacting to a news story in *The Hindu*.

The social audit units flag the cases of misappropriation of funds and the onus is on the State governments to make the recoveries.

Poor recovery

In the past three financial years, the recovery has varied from 13.8% to 20.8%.

To maintain autonomy from the State governments, the Act provides that the Centre will directly fund them.

Jairam Ramesh

"Of late this funding has been getting inordinately delayed. As a result, social audits don't get done on time, and the social audit process gets compromised, which is then used as an excuse by the Modi government to deny funds to the States, that in turn affects wage payments and so on. This is nothing but a planned euthanasia of MGNREGA – by trapping the scheme in a *chakravyuh*," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X (formerly known as Twitter).

SC grants bail to man in rape and murder case of 1983

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that a man who faced a 40-year-long trial for the rape and murder of his niece "deserved" to be released on bail.

The "peculiar feature" of the case became a ground for the Bench led by Justice A.S. Oka to conclude that the 75-year-old convict was worthy of bail.

"The occurrence [crime] is of the year 1983 which is 40 years old now. There are reasons why the trial was delayed," the court said in its order.

The trial had ended in April 2023. The man was on bail throughout the trial period. His appeal against the conviction is pending in the Calcutta High Court, which has admitted it for final hearing. The High Court had refused him bail in May, following which the septuagenarian had moved the top court.

Bangladesh Minister hits out at Canada

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Wading into the ongoing Canada-India row over Ottawa's allegations of Indian involvement in the murder of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Bangladesh has now accused Canada of sheltering "murderers".

In an interview to the India Today TV network, Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen raised his country's concerns about the continued presence of S.H.M.B. Noor Chowdhury in Canada since 1996.

Mr. Chowdhury is one of the key accused in the 1975 assassination of Bangladesh's then-President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family. Sheikh Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh. "Canada must not be a hub of all the murderers. The murderers can go to Canada and take shelter, and they can have a wonderful life while those they killed, their relatives are suffering," Mr. Momen said.

Dhaka's quest to bring Sheikh Mujib's killers to justice has been thwarted by Canada, which granted political asylum to Mr. Chowdhury, and has refused to extradite him, mostly because he has been given the death penalty in the Mujib assassination case.

Several witness accounts from the night of August 14, 1975 say that it was Mr. Chowdhury who fired the bullets that killed the founder of Bangladesh. His role in the assassination of Sheikh Mujib and most of his family is often recollected during the national day of mourning that Bangladesh marks on August 15 every year. The other former army officer who is a co-accused in the case and was given the death penalty is Rashed Chowdhury, who has remained in the United States since the 1990s.

Afghan consulates counter embassy's decision to shut down

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As Afghanistan's last remaining diplomats in Delhi plan their exit, citing a resource crunch and lack of support from the External Affairs Ministry, the move to shut down the embassy could cast a long shadow on the future of about 25,000 Afghan refugees in India.

According to the diplomats, it could also allow the Taliban to take control of the missions in India.

However, the Afghan consulates in Mumbai and Hyderabad distanced themselves from the Delhi mission's note verbale (a type of diplomatic communication) sent earlier this month, with Mumbai Consul General Zakia Wardak issuing a message on social media "categorically rejecting" the suggestion that all Afghan missions in India would close.

"In these challenging times, we want to assure all Afghan citizens living in India that the Consulate General of Afghanistan in Mumbai and Hyderabad is your reliable source of assistance for any consular, educational, or commercial matters," Ms. Wardak said in a post that also also praised India for its humanitarian support to Afghanistan in the post-2021 period.

"The economic ties between India and Afghanistan have reached significant milestones, with trade now exceeding one billion dollars. We are determined to further enhance these trade relations, recognizing the mutual benefits they bring to our nations," the post added.

Diplomatic friction

Given the differences between the Afghan mission in Delhi with the consulates in Hyderabad and Mumbai, as well as an earlier tussle within the embassy as the Taliban tried to appoint a new Ambassador, Indian government sources say that they will wait and watch the situation, even as they examine the authenticity of the note verbale they received.

Wrapping up: The Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi on Friday. It plans to cease all operations in the Indian capital by Saturday. AP

As *The Hindu* had reported on Friday, the note – which was unsigned, but sent on behalf of the Afghan Embassy by Acting Ambassador Mosa Naimi – informed the Ministry that they were unable to continue functioning with their present resources and intended to shut down operations by Saturday.

Farid Mamundzay, the Ambassador to New Delhi appointed by the previous Ashraf Ghani government, has been in London for several months, and most other diplomats have received asylum in other countries, including the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia.

At present, Mr. Naimi and the mission's education attache are the last remaining Afghan diplomats in Delhi. They \are expected to leave for Europe, while four Indian staffers will remain to take care of the mission.

The note had criticised the Ministry for refusing to respond to appeals for support, as well as not extending diplomatic visas to diplomats.

In particular, it accused the government of changing its position after India reopened its mission in Kabul in June 2022, indicating that it believed New Delhi was softening its position on the Taliban regime that is trying to replace the current diplomats with "pro-Taliban" appointees.

"Continuous threats to their families in Afghanistan by the Taliban, coupled with a lack of support from the Indian government, have prompted this decision. It is regrettable that India is not extending rightful visa renewals for Afghan diplomats... India's non-membership in the Geneva Convention on refugees and its stance on asylum for Afghan citizens is a concerning aspect," said an embassy official, who alleged that the Mumbai and Hyderabad consulates had even taken part in a videoconference with Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaki in July.

Changing policy

No government has yet recognised the Taliban as the legitimate authority in Kabul, although at least 15 countries, including India, operate diplomatic missions there.

In addition, many like Russia, China, Pakistan, and some central Asian countries have allowed the Taliban to appoint Acting Ambassadors in their capitals, while some have even allowed the black and white flag of the Taliban's Islamic Emirate to replace the red, green and black tricolour of the previous Islamic Republic. In the note sent to the Ministry, the embassy had requested that all bank funds be kept in the government's custody, and that the Republic's flag be allowed to fly at the embassy.

INBRIEF

President grants assent to women's reservation Bill

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the women's reservation Bill, which seeks to provide 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, the Law Ministry said in a notification on Friday. Though it was introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, it will be now known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act as some proposed constitutional amendments are yet to be passed by Parliament. The law, however, will be implemented after the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise will determine the particular seats that are to be reserved.

EPFO extends deadline for employers till December 31

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Friday extended by three months the time for employers to upload and validate the joint options and wage details of employees for higher provident fund pension. The revised last date is December 31. The earlier deadline for submitting the joint options was Saturday. To implement the Supreme Court order of November 4, 2022 on the matter of higher PF pension, the EPFO had launched a window in the members' portal to submit joint options for employees from February 26 till May 3. This was later extended several times after representations from employers and employers' associations.

Congress questions police inaction in Ujjain rape case

The Congress on Friday questioned the inaction of the Madhya Pradesh Police in the case of the 12-year-old rape victim in Ujjain. The party questioned the "silence" of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate condemned the indifference and inaction of the police with regard to the victim, who is from a Dalit family. She said if police had taken prompt action at Satna, from where the girl was reported to be missing, the horrific crime may not have taken place.

Condemn Lok Sabha remarks by BJP MP, Danish Ali urges PM

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Danish Ali on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to issue a public statement against the derogatory comments made by Ramesh Bidhuri in the Lok Sabha and sought "suitable punishment" for the BJP MP. He expressed grave concern over the "shameful events" that occurred on the floor of the House, and called on the Prime Minister to take note of it as the Leader of the House. Though the matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee, the BSP MP said there had been no sign of action so far.

INBRIEF

'Canada is committed to building closer ties with India'

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said Canada is "very serious" about building closer ties with India as it is a growing economic power and important geopolitical player, but wants New Delhi to work with Ottawa to ensure that they get the full facts about the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Speaking at a press conference in Montreal, Mr. Trudeau said that he thinks it is important that Canada and its allies continue to engage "constructively and seriously" with India given its growing importance on the world stage. He added despite "credible allegations" against India, Canada is committed to building closer ties with it, *The National Post* newspaper reported. PTI

Ahmedabad police book Khalistan supporter

The cybercrime branch of the Ahmedabad police on Friday lodged an FIR against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice, for threatening to turn the cricket World Cup, starting on October 5 at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad, into "World Terror Cup." The police said the complaint was based on a thread message via a pre-recorded voice message sent from a foreign number to several Indian nationals. Many recipients of the threat message reported it to the police. As per the FIR, Pannun is designated as a terrorist by the Government of India and is running an organisation called Sikhs for Justice from a foreign country.

Government hikes windfall tax on crude petroleum

The government on Friday hiked special additional excise duty (SAED) on crude petroleum to ₹12,100 per tonne with effect from September 30. In the last fortnightly review on September 15, the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil was set at ₹10,000 per tonne. Besides, the SAED or duty on export of diesel will be cut to ₹5 per litre, from ₹5.50 per litre currently. The duty on jet fuel or Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) will be reduced to ₹2.5 per litre effective Saturday, from ₹3.5 per litre currently. The SAED on petrol will continue at nil. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022. PTI

Discussed India-Canada issue with Blinken, says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister said he hoped both sides emerged 'better informed' after meetings with U.S. officials; Blinken has urged New Delhi to cooperate with the ongoing Canadian investigation

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that there was a discussion of the India-Canada dispute in his meetings with U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The Minister met with the U.S. cabinet officials on September 28, during his visit to Washington DC.

There has been much interest in the explosive allegations of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that India was involved with the killing of a Canadian Khalistani separatist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia earlier this year. India has denied any involvement in the killing.

"Did I speak about it [the row with Canada] with Jake Sullivan and Tony Blinken? Yes I did," he said, speaking at a discussion organised by the Hudson Institute on September 29 morning.

Mr. Jaishankar met separately with Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Blinken, and noted that he had heard U.S. views and assessments of the India-Canada situation in those discussions. The Minister said that he hoped the Indian and U.S. sides had come out of these meetings "better informed". "Secretary Blinken also took the opportunity to urge India to cooperate fully with the ongoing Canadian investigation," a State Department Spokesperson told *The Hindu* on Friday, pointing to the official readout which listed a range of issues that were discussed .

Strengthening dialogue: S. Jaishankar with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington DC on Thursday. ANI

To understand the issue, Mr. Jaishankar told the audience at Hudson, one had to appreciate that there had been "great friction" , since the 1980s, between India and Canada because of Ottawa's "very permissive" attitude towards terrorists and extremists.

"They have been given operating space in Canada, because of the compulsions of Canadian politics," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that Canada looked probably very different to Americans. He was making the point that interests contribute to perceptions of a country.

For India, he said, the perception was that Canada had a "very toxic combination" of organised crime from India, trafficking in people, mixed with secessionism.

"My diplomats are unsafe going to the Embassy or the consulates in Canada," and publicly intimidated, Mr. Jaishankar said, explaining why he had to temporarily suspend visa operations.

Asked for a status report on the India-Canada row, the Minister repeated a position he had stated in New York earlier this week, neither categorically confirming or denying that he had seen evidence of the government's role in Mr. Nijjar's killing. Ottawa has insisted that it presented New Delhi with such evidence.

"The Canadian Prime Minister made some allegations initially privately and then publicly. And our responses to him, both in private and public, were that what he was alleging was not consistent with our policy," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that if the Canadian government had anything "relevant and specific" for India to look at (i.e., evidence), the government would look at it.

"That's where that conversation is, at this point of time," the Minister said.

Minister defends Modi government on minority rights issues

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

There will be attempts to get a certain balance right, there will be corrections, says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar defended the Modi government against concerns around the issue of minority rights, arguing that equal access to benefits and services was evidence enough to address these concerns. He also suggested that 'vote banks' in India and abroad had a role in motivating such criticism.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking at the Hudson Institute on Friday. He was asked by the moderator, academic and *The Wall Street Journal* columnist Walter Russell Mead about his response to critics of the Modi government's attitude towards religious minorities in the country.

Not wanting to address specific individuals, Mr. Jaishankar offered, as "a broad proposition", the view that the underlying culture of India was "deeply pluralistic". He said it was, on multiple axes, the "most diverse space in the world". A space with such a degree of diversity would always have its own conversations and "there will be attempts to get a certain balance right, there will be corrections, there'll be re-corrections" the Minister said.

'National character'

Indian society had "almost a natural inclination to disagree and that is our national character", he added, suggesting that people abroad, who may not share a similar experience, were picking up parts of the discourse and forming an opinion based on those bits of information.

The test of "fair and good governance" or "balance" of a society was, according to Mr. Jaishankar, whether there was discrimination in terms of amenities, benefits, access and rights. He said the biggest change happening in India today was the creation of a social welfare system. "I defy you to show me discrimination," the Minister said in terms of access across domains. This is an argument Mr. Jaishankar has made previously.

"In fact, the more digital we have become the more-...faceless the governance has become, actually it's become fairer," he said.

He said in a globalised world, people "gripe" about it but that much of this complaining was also "political". There was "griping" in India too, the Minister said, because there had been a "culture of vote banks".

"There are sections who had, in their own eyes a certain privileged access, who today may resent the fact that they don't," he said, adding that this was part of the "turbulence" of a democratic society.

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1	Road ID 180 & 181 (Kamukuvilakom Road and Ankalamman Nagar)	2023_SCTLT_551497_3	Rs.3,15,84,659/-	05/10/2023
2	Road ID 44 (Pazhayasalai Road)	2023_SCTLT_550949_2	Rs.4,50,51,533/-	05/10/2023
3	Road ID 41 (Kothuval to Sabhapathi Kovil Street)	2023_SCTLT_550644_3	Rs.4,57,70,352/-	05/10/2023
4	Road ID 100 (Justice Sankaranarayana Street)	2023_SCTLT_551252_4	Rs.2,64,00,214/-	05/10/2023

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भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय /
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
औषध विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

(Advertisement No. 01/2023)
INVITE
Applications for the posts of Director of NIPER- Hyderabad and NIPER-Hajipur

Applications are invited for appointment to the posts of Director of National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) at Hyderabad (Telangana) and Hajipur (Bihar), autonomous institutes of national Importance under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India at a fixed salary of Rs 2,25,000 in Level 17 per month as per 7th CPC on contractual basis, as per the rules and regulations prescribed.

Details of eligibility conditions, application format, etc. are available on the website of Department of Pharmaceuticals **(www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in)** and that of NIPER-Hyderabad **(www.niperhyd.ac.in)** and NIPER-Hajipur **(www.niperhajipur.ac.in).**

Applications, in prescribed format, should reach within 30 days of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News by hard copy by Speed/Registered Post only to the **Deputy Secretary (NIPER), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Room No. 403 B Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001. (Email ID: richa.p@gov.in).**

Submission of applications through email also is mandatory.

Deputy Secretary (NIPER)

Government of Odisha,
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-36/2023-24 No : 2690 Dated : 26.09.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for **02 (Two) nos of Road work** under SACI for the year 2023-24.

1. **Name of work** : **Road works under SACI for the year 2023-24.**
2. **No of work** : **02 (Two) nos of Road work Details as per DTCN**
3. **Estimated Cost** : **Approximately Cost Rs.452.57 lakhs to Rs.645.72 Lakhs.**
4. **Class of Contractor** : **'A' & 'Special' Class**
5. **Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit** : **Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Superintending Engineer.**
6. **Mode of submission of tender** : **Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in .(https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
7. **EMD and mode of deposit** : **1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN.**
8. **Summary of Key dates are provided below :**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Road Tender Online - RWCSBP-36/2023-24	03.10.2023 at 11.00.A.M.	17.10.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	13.10.2023 up to 5.00.P.M.	18.10.2023 at 11.00.A.M.	To be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-1136 : OIPR-25091/11/0056/2324

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_606855_1	For the supply of PTFE Pipe Fittings
2	2023_KMML_603655_1	For the supply of quick opening door for Rotary Digester-2 Nos
3	2023_KMML_605200_1	For procurement of Worm Reduction Gear Box
4	2023_KMML_606322_1	For the supply of High Alumina Refractory Bricks/ Refractory Bricks
5	2023_KMML_607443_1	For the supply of Sleeve Bearing for Plummer Block-2 Nos

Chavara 29.09.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in; Ph-No-06782/260318, Balia,Balasore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e" - Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 45 for 2023-24

Letter No: - 4386 Date: 27.09.2023

1. **Name of the Work** : **Road under MMSY-TRIP**
2. **Total No. of Work** : **15 Nos. of Roads.**
3. **Estimated Cost** : **As per Annexure**
4. **Eligible Class of Contractor** : **As per Annexure**
5. **Period of Completion** : **As per Annexure**
6. **Other Details** :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	NCB No.- 45	03.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	16.10.2023 Up to 5.00 P.M.	13.10.2023 Up to 5.00 P.M.	17.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● **Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balasore.
O-1146: OIPR-25105/11/0053/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B) /18/ 2023-24
No.5059 Dtd.26.09.2023

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Road Works and Building Works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **20 (TWENTY) (Roads and Bridges)**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor : **"B" Class, "A" Class and "Special".**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From **03.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 17.10.2023.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : **17.10.2023 at 18.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.
B-971 : OIPR-34035/11/0020/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Tel.06766-258301(0); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under BSY
Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.388
No. 3420 / Date : 25/09/2023

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge Works under BSY in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **04 (Four)** Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.388	Dt.04.10.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.17.10.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.16.10.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.18.10.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-1151: OIPR-25177/11/0027/2324

INBRIEF

Abhishek Banerjee not to face ED on day of protest

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday said he will not appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Kolkata on October 3. A summon to Mr. Banerjee has been issued in the West Bengal school job scam. The Trinamool leader said that he will be in Delhi for the party's event on October 3. "The fight against the deprivation of WB and its rightful dues shall persist regardless of the obstacles. No force on Earth can hinder my dedication to fight for the people of WB and their fundamental rights. I'll be in Delhi joining the protest on Oct 2nd & 3rd. STOP ME IF U CAN!" Mr. Banerjee said on X.

ISKCON sends ₹100-crore defamation notice to Maneka

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) on Friday said it has sent a ₹100-crore defamation notice to BJP MP Maneka Gandhi for questioning the organisation over the upkeep of cows in its *gaushalas* (cowsheds). An undated video of Ms. Gandhi has gone viral where she could be heard making accusations against the ISKCON. Its vice-president Radharamn Das said the organisation was "deeply pained by these defamatory, slanderous, and malicious accusations" and "will not leave any stone unturned in our pursuit of justice against the fallacious propaganda".

Rail services hit as farmers keep up stir against Centre

Members of 19 farmers' outfits block train tracks for second day, seek fulfilment of demands on MSP, flood relief package, among others

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Train services in Punjab were disrupted for the second day on Friday as farmers continued with their 'rail roko' agitation against the Centre, accusing it of being apathetic towards their demands.

Farmers associated with 19 outfits on Thursday started a three-day 'rail roko' agitation to press for fulfilment of their demands, including a law on assured Minimum Support Price (MSP). A group of farmers associated with Bharti Kisan Union (Sidhupur) squatted on the Chandigarh-Ambala-Delhi national highway near Lalru in Punjab for a few hours, causing disruption to vehicular movement.

As farmers blocked the tracks, it affected railway services in some places, resulting in disruption of long-distance and local train movement in the State. Members of these outfits squatted and blocked railway tracks at 20 places across different districts, said Sarwan Singh Pandher, general secretary of the Punjab unit of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, one of the outfits participating in the agitation. "The BJP-led government at the Centre has been ignoring farmers' plight for long and hence, we had to resort to the agitation. Our 'rail roko' agitation will continue till September 30, and tomorrow we will also squat on tracks in Haryana's Ambala," he said.

Agitation continues: Farmers shout slogans while blocking a train track during a 'rail roko' protest in Jalandhar on Friday. PTI

The farmers' outfits have been demanding that the Centre announce a special package of ₹50,000 crore for the damage caused by floods in north Indian States, enact a Minimum Support Price (MSP) law for all crops based on the Swaminathan Commission report, among others.

Law panel working on mechanism for simultaneous polls

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Law Commission is working on a formula to synchronise all Assembly polls by extending or reducing the tenure so that all State elections can be held along with Lok Sabha polls from 2029 onwards, sources said on Friday.

As the government has already set up a high-level panel to explore simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies, the Law Commission may also be asked to include the third tier of elections along with its current mandate for national and State-level polls.

Reducing cost

The sources said the panel is devising a mechanism to ensure a common electoral roll for Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies to reduce cost and use of manpower for undertaking an almost identical exercise which is carried out now by the Election Commission and various State Election Commissions.

The Law Commission's report on simultaneous polls is not ready as some issues are yet to be settled, the sources noted.

For synchronising various Assembly polls to ensure both State and Lok Sabha elections are held together from 2029 onwards, the Commission under Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi may suggest reducing or enhancing the tenure of Legislative Assemblies.

A mechanism is being devised to ensure that once Lok Sabha and Assembly polls are synchronised, voters go to the polling booth only once to cast their ballot for both elections.

As of now, the mandate of the Commission is to suggest ways to hold Assembly and Lok Sabha polls together. But the high-level committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind has been tasked with recommending how Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body polls (panchayat, municipalities, zila parishad) can be held together.

A suggestion the law panel can make is to hold the three-tier polls in two phases in one year. In the first phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly polls can be held; in the second phase, local body polls can be organised.

Electoral bonds to go on sale from October 4

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday announced the sale of the 28th tranche of electoral bonds from October 4 to 13 at all authorised branches of the State Bank of India.

While the move comes ahead of the Assembly elections in a few States, a 10-day sale window in October is part of the stated schedule for such sales since the bonds were introduced in January 2018 as a means "to cleanse the system of political funding in the country".

As per the scheme, the bonds are made available for 10 days each in January, April, July, and October, and on dates specified by the Union government and an additional 30-day period in the year of the Lok Sabha election.

In November 2022, the government amended the scheme to grant itself the power to declare an extra fortnight of electoral bond sales in years when States and Union Territories with a legislature have elections. That window was used to issue electoral bonds ahead of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections.

Shanth Kumar of *Deccan Herald* is new PTI Chairman

Praveen Someshwar, Chief Executive Officer of *Hindustan Times*, elected Vice-Chairman

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

K.N. Shanth Kumar of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd, publishers of *Deccan Herald*, was on Friday elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors.

The election took place at a meeting of PTI's Board of Directors at the agency's headquarters in New Delhi. The Board also elected Praveen Someshwar, the Chief Executive Officer of *Hindustan Times*, as the Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Kumar replaces Aveek Sarkar, who served as Chairman for two consecutive terms. "It is a privilege to be at the helm of PTI at a time when it is going through an exciting transformation, particularly after it recently launched the video service," he said.

Mr. Kumar, 62, has been involved in the management of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd in various roles since 1983. He was also Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC), a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for more than 20 years. This is the second time that he is serving as the Chairman of the Board of PTI; the last time being 2013 to 2014.

"PTI is fortunate to have someone of Shanth Kumar's calibre at the helm. His understanding of the legacy newspaper business and the new-age digital news ecosystem will be of immense benefit to the news agency," said Vijay Joshi, PTI's CEO and Editor-in-Chief.

Remembering M.S. Swaminathan's legacy of ecological conservation

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Much has been said and written about the role of M.S. Swaminathan (1925-2023) in accelerating agricultural growth with the help of science and technology. But his contributions to conservation and environmental protection are no less significant. He worked extensively on four aspects of conservation: mangrove ecosystem; biodiversity conservation; genetic conservation; and Keystone Dialogues (which pertained to plant genetic resources and biological diversity).

The mangrove ecosystems are capable of surviving in the most challenging environment of saline brackish waters, low oxygen tension and high temperatures. They provide benefits to coastal populations, mainly protection against natural events. But they constantly face the threat of destruction from human depredations, including expansion of coastal aquaculture.

M.S. Swaminathan

It was for this and many other reasons that Swaminathan sought urgent measures to prevent any further destruction of the mangrove forests and restore the partially degraded ones. He was particular about maintaining the genetic diversity of the ecosystem of the Indo-Malaysian region, regarded as the centre of diversity for mangrove species, according to *M.S. Swaminathan: Scientist|Humanist|Conservationist*, a revised and updated biography, authored by R.D. Iyer, Anil Kumar and Rohini Iyer, and published by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in November 2021.

Aware of the debates between the proponents of development and those of conservation, Swaminathan wanted every country to "achieve harmony between human and animal populations and the natural resource endowments". He was acutely aware that unless the livelihood security of people was strengthened, conservation of unique natural endowments could become a lost cause in poor and overpopulated countries, according to his biography.

Given the concern among developing countries that experiments in biotechnology not permitted in developed countries could take place on their territories, Swaminathan "rightly argued for the need for an international Protocol on Biosafety under the Convention on Biological Diversity", said his biographers. For promoting the theme of conservation agriculture, he formulated an educational programme, 'Every Child a Scientist', to sensitise children to the country's biological heritage and conservation methods.

After he was elected president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1984, he emphasised, in his "Personal Manifesto", that the IUCN must change from a Euro-centric to an Earth-centric organisation. As much attention should be paid to issues of the poor and hungry as to the saving of pandas and penguins. On the food crisis in Africa, he diagnosed that the continent's plight had less to do with drought than with the fact that "there is a need for widespread reforestation".

Ruixiang Zhang to receive SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Ruixiang Zhang of the University of California, Berkeley. This annual $10,000 prize is for outstanding contributions by individuals in areas of mathematics influenced by Indian mathematics great Ramanujan (in a broad sense).

The prize will be awarded at an International Conference in Number Theory on December 20-22 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, Ramanujan's hometown.

Mr. Zhang received his BS degree in mathematics from Peking University in 2012 and his PhD in mathematics at Princeton University in 2017. After working at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the University of Wisconsin, since 2021, he has been an assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

Ruixiang Zhang

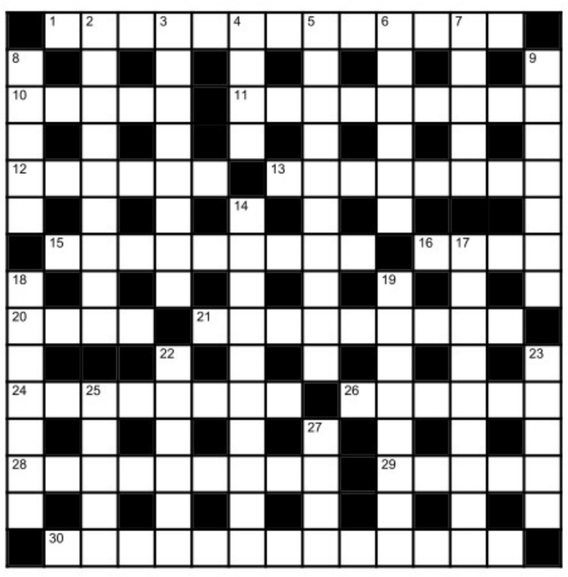
His fundamental work spans analytic number theory, combinatorics, Euclidean harmonic analysis, and geometry. Building on his doctoral thesis, he and Shaoming Guo proved a generalisation of the main conjecture in Vinogradov's mean value theorem, which is concerned with the sums of numbers raised to a certain power.

TH CROSSWORD + 13983

(set by Spinner)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Get involved with soldiers trapped in corrupt pleasure (13)
10 English attack loses leader, short of score by a dozen (5)
11 Former flame criticises Spinner about development (9)
12 American pop singer's extremely sharp listeners (6)
13 Primarily doctors with specialisation in solving teethy situations, for starters (8)
15 Silence is a good man's complaint (9)
16 Perform twice for moron (4)
20 Letters from boyfriend signalling conclusion, many times over (4)
21 Comedy arc masquerading as constitutional government (9)
24 Thrilling, unfinished tie - game cut short, interrupted by rains essentially! (8)
26 Sympathised with elderly getting irked regularly (6)
28 Spinner back on stage, overcoming traces of intense scheduling stress (9)
29 Bond protecting tin shield (5)
30 Spinner trained near ground in Greece or Spain (13)

Down

2 Nation's leader, voted in with gusto initially, failed to take care (9)
3 Crazy tennis player, taking no naps, running at 100% (8)
4 Endless road, one having many branches (4)
5 One's broken promises beginning to nurture suspicion (10)
6 Home saved by quiet baby (6)
7 Fixes distress between partners (5)
8 Chief's a monster (5)
9 Sadly, he's not getting love in singular window of opportunity (3,4)
14 Unpredictably dive since pursuing one blowing hot and cold (10)
17 Captain features in extraordinary star/hero team that plays together (9)
18 Irritates too much, endlessly (7)
19 Disturb broken finger while taking hit on the sides (8)
22 Retiring is about a long distance journey! (6)
23 Faintly touched ball, caught in a tight space - Wicket gone! (5)
25 When losing head, a little becomes a lot! (5)
27 Look after a piece of rare artwork (4)

SUDOKU

		5		8				
2	7		6		1	5		
3			5		4			
	3	9	4				5	
8								6
	5				3	4	2	
			1		6			5
		3	2		8		1	4
				4		9		

No.SS5934 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	I	S	S	U	P	■	C	A	R	D	G	A	M	E
■	N	■	C	■	A	■	I	■	O	■	A	■	O	■
S	T	E	A	L	I	N	G	■	S	I	N	K	I	N
■	E	■	P	■	N	■	A	■	T	■	J	■	S	■
A	R	M	E	D	F	O	R	C	E	■	A	S	T	I
■	N	■	G	■	U	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	U	■
■	■	■	O	W	L	E	T	■	S	E	C	U	R	E
■	V	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	■
B	I	S	T	R	O	■	H	Y	E	N	A	■	■	■
■	A	■	■	■	N	■	E	■	M	■	S	■	D	■
C	M	O	N	■	P	E	N	T	A	T	H	L	O	N
■	E	■	A	■	A	■	C	■	N	■	D	■	S	■
A	D	D	S	U	P	■	O	C	A	R	I	N	A	S
■	I	■	I	■	E	■	O	■	T	■	E	■	G	■
B	A	C	K	D	R	O	P	■	E	I	T	H	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	9	6	8	1	2	4	5
5	8	4	9	2	7	1	6	3
1	2	6	3	4	5	9	7	8
2	7	8	4	6	3	5	9	1
6	4	5	1	9	2	3	8	7
9	1	3	5	7	8	6	2	4
4	5	2	8	1	6	7	3	9
3	9	7	2	5	4	8	1	6
8	6	1	7	3	9	4	5	2

FAITH

Mahalaya paksha

Mahalaya paksha is a fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada when our ancestors visit the earth, accept our *sraddha* offerings, bless us and depart. Doing mahalaya *sraddha* is important, said V.S. Karunakaracharier in a discourse. It is said that one should do *sraddha* every day during mahalaya paksha. If this is not possible, then one must do it at least on one of the 15 days. The benefits of doing *sraddha* on different tithis during mahalaya paksha are specified.

Doing *sraddha* on prathama brings riches; on dvitiya, blesses one with progeny; on tritiya brings progress; on chaturthi leads to one being without enemies; on panchami gets us gold and silver; on sashti brings fame; on sapthami blesses us with power; on ashtami blesses us with knowledge; on navami gives one a good life partner. If performed on dasami then all one's wishes get fulfilled; on ekadasi one gets Veda jnana; on dvadasi one's family line continues; on trayodasi one gets limitless wealth. On chaturdasi, it is done to appease those who died in accidents. Mahalaya *tarpana*, mahalaya *sraddha* and mahalaya Amavasya are all significant for ritual offerings to ancestors.

Performing prescribed rituals for our dead ancestors is very important. Lord Mahavishnu, the Supreme One, has no parent. And yet, in the Sarangapani temple in Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu He performs *sraddha* for a devotee.

WASHINGTON

U.S. government teeters on brink of shutdown with no deal in view

AFP

The U.S. government was on the verge of a shutdown on Friday as the Congress struggled to reach a deal to keep agencies running and avoid the suspension of salaries. The closure, set to start after midnight Saturday (0930 IST on Sunday), would be the first since 2019 and appears increasingly inevitable. AFP

VOLOS

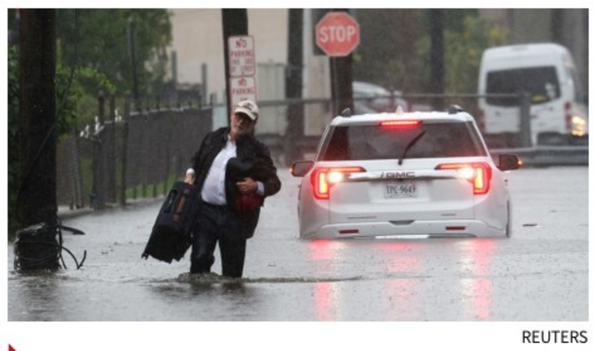
Storm eases in Greece but flood risk is high amid rising river levels

AFP

Bad weather eased in central Greece leaving widespread flooding and infrastructure damage across the farming region, which has been battered by two powerful storms in less than a month. The government said more than $2.1 billion in damages had been caused before the latest storm hit. AP

NEW YORK

New York flooded by heavy rains with subway partially paralysed



REUTERS

Heavy rains overnight in the northeastern U.S. left parts of New York City under water on Friday, partially paralysing subways and airports. Governor Kathy Hochul declared a state of emergency for the city, Long Island to the east, and the Hudson River valley to the north, warning people to not travel on flooded roads. AFP

MOSCOW

Former aide to Prigozhin will oversee Ukraine volunteer fighters

AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin has tasked Andrei Troshev, former aide of late Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, to oversee volunteer fighter units in Ukraine, according to the Kremlin. Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner group, died with nine others when a plane flying from Moscow to St. Petersburg crashed on August 23. AFP

Judge from Mullaitivu flees Sri Lanka citing threat to life

District Judge T. Saravanaraja had recently ruled on two sensitive cases which involved a religious site in Kurunthurmalai and a remembrance event to commemorate LTTE member Thileepan

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

A district judge from Mullaitivu in Sri Lanka's Northern Province has resigned and fled the country citing threats to his life, Tamil media in Sri Lanka reported on Friday.

In a letter that several publications reproduced in their news reports, Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanaraja – who recently ruled on two cases pertaining to a religious site in Kurunthurmalai and a remembrance event to commemorate LTTE member Thileepan – had written to the Secretary of Sri Lanka's Judicial Services Commission last week, on his decision to resign owing to "threat of my life and due to lot of stress".

In July, the judge also visited a mass grave site in Kokkuthoduvai with the police and ordered excavations. Fourteen years after the civil war, Mullaitivu, in the island nation's war-affected, Tamil-majority Northern Province has been witnessing many contestations, as its residents navigate huge losses suffered during the strife, and seek truth and justice.

It is not clear from media reports if the "threats" received by the judge were directly linked to the sensitive cases he ruled on. While there is no official comment from the judge following reports of his departure, his said decision to resign and leave the island, has put the spotlight on the independence of the judiciary in Sri Lanka.

No closure: Even after 14 years, residents of Mullaitivu navigate huge losses suffered during Sri Lanka's civil war. GETTY IMAGES

"The judiciary is under severe stress and challenge today. For the first time ever, a judge is said to have fled the country fearing for his life, for having made a judicial order," Jaffna legislator and senior lawyer M.A. Sumanthiran said at a public event in Jaffna on Friday. Observing that the "challenge" to the judiciary has reached "unprecedented heights", he remarked: "We have seen the executive, and unfortunately sometimes even the Parliament, put the judiciary under stress in recent times."

When confronted with pressure, the judiciary resorted to one of three responses, he said. "They don't take notice, and they act independently. That is welcome. Or they can't bear the stress, they resign and go away - shows a serious lapse in our system. The third response is worse, that is when the judges give in to the threats, change their verdicts and become tools in the hands of the executive or others," Mr. Sumanthiran said.

Senior lawyer and former President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka Saliya Pieris linked the heightening attack on the judiciary to the period after Ranil Wickremesinghe became President. "In March there was a threat to haul up Supreme Court Judges for breach of parliamentary privileges over orders issued by them compelling the government to release funds to conduct local government elections. This was clearly to intimidate the judiciary," he told *The Hindu*.

Further, judges have been subject to criticism and attacks in Parliament over particular cases, he pointed out. "The President himself in a speech indicated the government will not obey any court order relating to debt restructuring, just one day before a case relating to debt restructuring was to be taken up. Clearly Judicial Independence is under threat in Sri Lanka," he said.

Last month, the International Commission of Jurists, a global rights body, expressed concern over the attack on the independence of the Judiciary in Sri Lanka, under the cover of parliamentary privilege. The ICJ's statement came in the context of an inflammatory remark made by ruling party MP and former Minister Sarath Weeresekera, calling the senior magistrate a "mentally ill person".

China's cross-sea bullet trains will link five cities in Fujian

Ananth Krishnan

China on Friday opened its first cross-sea bullet train, linking major cities in the southeastern Fujian province.

The bullet trains – or high-speed rail (HSR) as they are called in China – will travel at the same 350 km/hr speed as other trains on the network.

The new track, which links five cities in Fujian, including capital Fuzhou and business-hub Xiamen, includes portions along a cross-sea bridge, running right across the strait from Taiwan. The over-sea segment covers around 20 km of the total 277 km route.

The new track runs across the strait from Taiwan with its over-sea segment covering around 20 km of the total 277 km route. REUTERS

World's largest

China's HSR network is already the world's largest. A further 2,500 km will be added to the network this year, taking the total length to 44,500 km, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* (SCMP) reported, with plans to reach 50,000 km of HSR by 2025. The first route, connecting Beijing and Tianjin, went online in 2008.

The latest phase of expansion is covering China's remote and sprawling western regions, with new tracks being opened in Tibet, Xinjiang and Sichuan.

The railways suffered a financial hit during three years of the stringent zero-COVID policy that had imposed restrictions on travel, but this year it is expecting a boom with the coming weeks marking the first national holiday "golden week" post-COVID, starting this weekend.

Marcos Jr. reiterates Manila's stand against Beijing

Associated Press
MANILA

The Philippine President said on Friday that his country does not want a confrontation but will staunchly defend its waters after its coast guard dismantled a floating barrier placed by China at the disputed Scarborough shoal in the South China Sea on Monday.

"We're not looking for trouble, but what we'll do is to continue defending the maritime territory of the Philippines and the rights of our fishermen, who have been fishing in those areas for hundreds of years," Mr. Marcos said in response to a question at a news briefing in southern Surigao del Norte province.

'Imran, PTI leaders involved in plotting May 9 violence'

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and several top leaders of his party were directly involved in orchestrating the unprecedented anti-government violence on May 9, a joint investigation team has informed an anti-terrorism court here.

A Joint Investigation Team (JIT) was constituted to probe the violence in Punjab province following the arrest of Mr. Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in connection with a corruption case on May 9.

The JIT headed by DIG Operations Imran Kishwar on Thursday submitted chargesheets against PTI leaders and hundreds of workers before an anti-terrorism court, reported the *Dawn* newspaper.

According to Lahore police, Mr. Khan, 70, and over 900 other party leaders and activists named in the May 9 cases have been "declared guilty of serious offences", the report said.

Imran Khan

In the chargesheets filed before the court, the prosecution alleged that the violent protests led by the suspects on May 9 were part of a planned conspiracy against the state.

Video evidences

It said over "400 pieces of video evidence, including speeches of the PTI chairman, proved that the attacks on military installations and premises in cantonment areas were pre-planned".

A large number of PTI activists had attacked military installations, police vehicles, and other public and private properties in Lahore, according to the cases registered with the police.

Ahead of Maldives run-off poll, India ties remain key issue

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Opposition candidate's promise of Maldives' independence is a direct attack on President Solih's 'India first' policy

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's close ties with India dominated the campaign trail on the eve of Saturday's election run-off in the island nation, with frontrunner and Opposition candidate Mohamed Muizzu promising to "safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty".

The first round of the presidential polls in the Maldives was held on September 9, 2023, but all candidates failed to garner the required vote share of over 50%, leading to a run-off.

The Opposition coalition People's National Congress-Progressive Party of Maldives's candidate Mohamed Muizzu secured the highest vote share of 46.06% while incumbent Mr. Solih trailed behind him with 39.05 % of the ballot.

Meanwhile, Maldivians will also get to decide if they want to switch to a parliamentary system of governance, in a referendum scheduled next month. New Delhi will closely watch the poll outcome on Friday to see if its ties with Male will see continuity.

Renewed vows

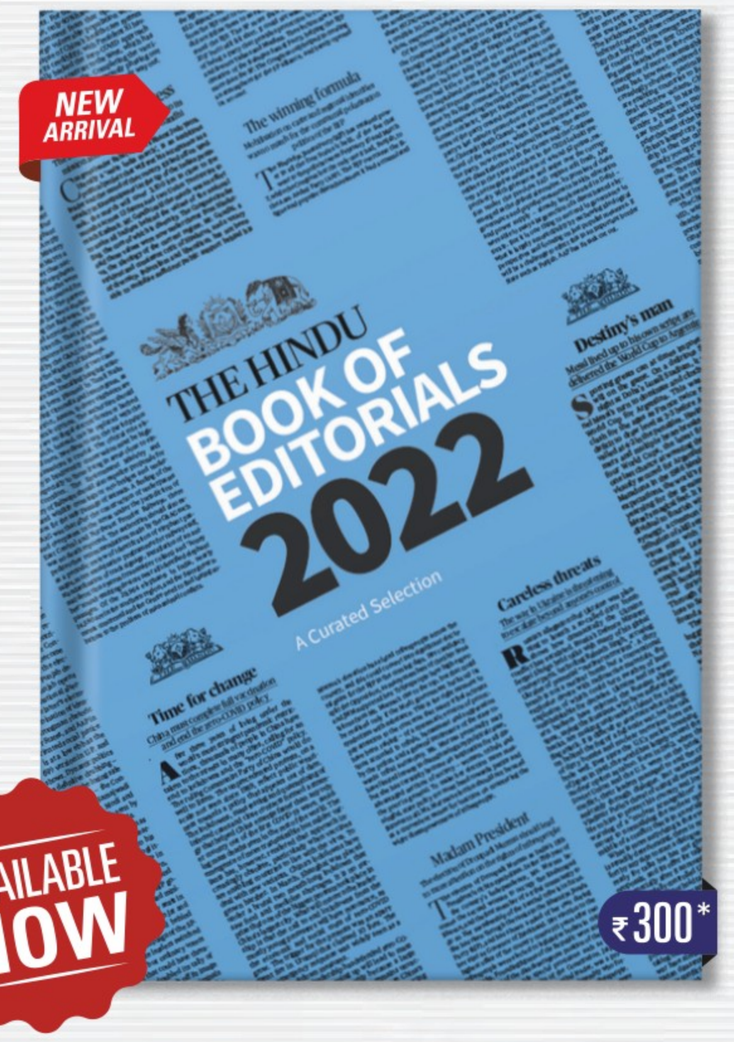
Mr. Muizzu's renewed poll promise on the Maldives's "independence" – apart from enhanced housing and economic growth – is a direct attack on Mr. Solih's 'India first' foreign policy and takes off from the Opposition's 'India Out' campaign spearheaded by former President Abdulla Yameen.

The now-jailed leader, known for his China tilt, campaigned hard to mobilise support on the issue but couldn't run for the country's top office after the country's Supreme Court barred him, citing his criminal conviction.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Editorials 2022
captures what made news in the year that passed, with a selection of editorials that were published in the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.



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INBRIEF

Bookings open for Honda's ₹39.20-lakh Gold Wing Tour

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has opened bookings for Gold Wing Tour, the firm's flagship motorcycle priced at ₹39.20 lakh (ex-showroom, Gurugram). "The new Honda Gold Wing Tour will make its way to India through the CBU (completely built-up) route from Japan and be exclusively sold via the premium BigWing Top Line dealerships," HMSI said. "The new bike will raise the level of touring experience by several notches," said Tsutsumu Otani, MD, Director, President & CEO, HMSI.

ALL bags order to supply 1,282 buses to Gujarat RTC

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has bagged an order to supply 1,282 fully-built diesel buses to the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC). It is one of the largest orders from a State Transport Undertaking for a single original equipment manufacturer, the company said. "This latest order boosts our order book from state transport undertakings to an impressive tally of over 4,000 buses," said Sanjeev Kumar, President - M&HCV.

Zydus's bad cholesterol drug candidate set for Phase 1 study

Drugmaker Zydus has received Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) permission to initiate Phase I clinical study of its novel PCSK9 inhibitor. "Our aim is to treat Dyslipidemia by inhibiting PCSK9 with a novel entity, which will enhance the removal of LDL-C from the bloodstream and provide patients with a potential for once-in-six-month dosing regimen," Zydus Lifesciences Chairman Pankaj R. Patel said in a statement.

Hot, dry August lifts core sector growth to a 14-month high

Production at the eight infrastructure sectors climb by 12.1%, with five of them reporting double-digit expansions; ICI posts 2.5% sequential growth

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Output at the eight core infrastructure sectors rose by a combined 12.1% in August, the fastest pace in 14 months, with five reporting double-digit growth, spurring hopes of a healthy uptick in industrial production last month.

This was the second straight month that all eight sectors, which constitute about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded an uptick, after a 14-month streak of uneven trends.

Provisional core sector output measured by the Index of Core Industries (ICI) rose 2.5% over July's level, the first uptick in three months. The core sectors collectively grew 8.4% in July, when IIP growth hit a five-month high of 5.7%.

Cement output grew 18.9%, the largest uptick since November 2022. Deficient rains also lifted coal production and electricity generation, which grew 17.9% and 14.9%, respectively, their fastest rates of expansion in 14 months.

"A truant monsoon helped to push up core sector growth to a robust 12.1% in August 2023," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating firm ICRA. "Given the uptick in the core sector growth, as well as healthy performance of high frequency indicators such as auto output, GST e-way bills, rail freight, etc., we forecast the IIP to expand by 9%-11% in August," she reckoned.

Steel production rose 10.9%, the slowest pace in a 10-month streak of double-digit growth, while natural gas output grew 10%, the most since February 2022. Refinery products expanded by 9.5%, also the highest pace in 14 months.

Crude oil output grew 2.1% for the second successive month after a contractionary streak between May 2022 and June 2023. However, output levels were 0.6% below July. Coal and steel were the other sectors to record a sequential decline, dropping 1.5% and 0.8%, respectively.

Fertilisers was the only sector to record the slowest growth in at least a year, rising 1.8% in August.

"While higher cement production reflects demand from infrastructure sectors, power generation saw a massive and unusual growth in August due to a severe rainfall deficiency in large parts... and the consequent higher power demand from the residential and agricultural segments," said Suman Chowdhury, chief economist at Acuite Ratings and Research.

'Recovery broad-based'

The "numbers suggest the recovery in infrastructure industries is getting broad-based," India Ratings economists Paras Jasrai and Sunil Kumar Sinha observed.

They see core output growing by about 8% in September, owing to "stable progress in economic activity supported by the festive demand".

Strengthening core

All eight industries in the core sector logged growth for a second month, signalling an uptrend in broader industrial production

- Provisional core output rose 2.5% over July's level, the first such uptick in three months
- Output of coal and electricity grew 17.9% and 14.9%, respectively, buoyed by deficient rains

- Steel production rose 10.9%, the slowest pace in a 10-month streak of double-digit growth

Euro zone inflation slows to two-year low

Reuters
FRANKFURT

Inflation in the euro zone fell to its lowest level in two years in September, suggesting the European Central Bank's steady diet of rate hikes was succeeding in curbing runaway prices albeit at a growing cost for economic growth.

Consumer prices rose by 4.3% in September, the slowest pace since October 2021, from 5.2% one month earlier, as per Eurostat's flash reading.

Inflation excluding food, energy, alcohol and tobacco fell to 4.5% from 5.3%, the biggest drop since August 2020.

"Base effects played a key role but the figures also suggest underlying inflationary pressures are becoming less intense," Diego Iscaro, head of European economics at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

"The figures reinforce the view interest rates have likely reached peak in the current tightening cycle."

Fiscal deficit hits 36% of FY target in Aug.

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Central government's fiscal deficit for the first five months of the financial year was ₹6.43 lakh crore

India's fiscal deficit for the first five months of the financial year was ₹6.43 lakh crore, 36% of the estimate for the whole year, official data showed on Friday.

April-August net tax revenues were ₹8.04 lakh crore, or 34.5% of the annual estimate, higher than ₹7 lakh crore in the same period last year, according to the data.

Corporate tax collections rose more than 15% to ₹2.39 lakh crore in April-August, the data showed.

Total expenditure in the period was ₹16.72 lakh crore, or 37.1% of the annual goal, higher than the ₹13.90 lakh crore in the same period last year.

In the first five months of the financial year, government capital expenditure or spending on building infrastructure was ₹3.74 lakh crore, or 37.4% of the annual target, higher than ₹2.52 lakh crore in the same period a year earlier.

India aims to narrow its fiscal deficit to 5.9% of GDP in the current fiscal year.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,828	0.49
US Dollar	83.05	0.18
Gold	58,700	-0.42
Brent oil	95.47	-0.41

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2413.90	-61.35
Adani Ports	825.15	2.05
Apollo Hosp	5137.75	117.65
Asian Paints	3161.05	-9.30
Axis Bank	1036.70	5.80
Bajaj Auto	5063.70	57.10
Bajaj Finserv	1540.25	0.55
Bajaj Finance	7810.75	71.75
Bharti Airtel	926.40	0.75
BPCL	346.60	2.65
Britannia Ind	4537.15	12.60
Cipla	1186.15	22.10
Coal India	295.20	5.00
Divis Lab	3765.15	100.15
Dr Reddys Lab	5587.00	157.90
Eicher Motors	3446.95	6.70
Grasim Ind	1942.40	35.90
HCL Tech	1234.80	-7.10
HDFC Bank	1526.30	2.60
HDFC Life	637.40	2.70
Hero MotoCorp	3057.25	87.25
Hindalco	492.65	25.80
Hind Unilever	2465.60	5.25
ICICI Bank	951.90	9.30
IndusInd Bank	1428.85	15.85
Infosys	1435.45	-4.00
ITC	444.40	3.65
JSW Steel	779.60	11.50
Kotak Bank	1735.70	2.50
L&T	3023.55	13.55
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5209.85	-55.05
M&M	1554.25	-1.80
Maruti Suzuki	10610.60	45.25
NestleIndia	22506.90	-31.55
NTPC	245.55	8.50
ONGC	191.85	4.40
PowerGrid Corp	199.75	-1.00
Reliance Ind	2345.00	10.90
SBI Life	1305.40	16.00
State Bank	598.55	8.60
Sun Pharma	1158.65	26.35
TataConsumerProduct	876.90	0.40
Tata Motors	630.20	16.10
Tata Steel	128.90	2.10
TCS	3528.60	-8.15
Tech Mahindra	1222.80	-6.70
Titan	3148.80	-8.45
UltraTech Cement	8254.85	100.50
UPL	616.25	11.25
Wipro	406.05	0.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.84	83.16
Euro	87.89	88.23
British Pound	101.57	101.97
Japanese Yen (100)	55.56	55.78
Chinese Yuan	11.35	11.39
Swiss Franc	90.91	91.27
Singapore Dollar	60.81	61.06
Canadian Dollar	61.74	61.98
Malaysian Ringitt	17.64	17.75
Australian Dollar	53.83	54.04

Source:Indian Bank

NABARD announces listing Social Bonds on BSE

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced the listing of its 'Social Bonds' on the BSE.

The bank had raised ₹1,040 crore through this offering. The funds would be used to refinance the Jal Jeevan Mission (the Union government's drinking water project) in Telangana.

NABARD Chairman, Shaji K.V. said the bank planned to expand its offerings with 'Sustainability Bonds' and 'Green Bonds' soon. He also suggested incentivising investors to consider social and green bonds to boost interest in such listings.

Vedanta to demerge units into six entities

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Anil Agarwal

Vedanta Ltd., the resources and power producer, plans to demerge its various business units into what it calls 'pure play' companies to "unlock value and attract big ticket investment" to enable expansion and growth of each of the six businesses.

'Pure play assets'

The company's board on Friday approved a 'pure play asset owner' business model that will lead to creation and separate listing of six companies namely Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Steel and Ferrous Materials, Vedanta Base Metals and Vedanta Ltd.

"The demerger is planned to be a simple vertical split, for every 1 share of Vedanta Ltd., the shareholders will additionally receive one share of each of the 5 newly listed companies," the company said in a regulatory filing.

"By demerging our business units, we believe that we will unlock value and potential for faster growth in each vertical," Chairman Anil Agarwal was quoted as saying in the statement.

ADB's capital reforms to free $100 bn for Asia, Pacific

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved capital-management reforms that will unlock $100 billion in funds over the next 10 years to support Asia and the Pacific with resources to manage a complex set of overlapping crises and climate-change challenges.

The reforms were introduced through an update of ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF). They expanded the ADB's annual, new-commitments capacity to more than $36 billion, a rise of about $10 billion, or about 40%. The updated CAF is the latest of several initiatives by ADB to raise lending capacity.

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PRESS NOTE

As part of **"Swachhata Hi Seva" Campaign 2023,** initiated by Govt. of India, a massive cleanliness drive led by people is envisaged to be held on **1st October 2023 at 10.00 AM** as a tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi**.

EPFO Regional Office, Chikkamagaluru will be conducting Cleanliness Drive on the theme **"CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD"** at **10.00 AM** in the nearby Residential area of **EPFO, Regional Office, 5th Phase, Housing Board, Chikkamagaluru.** Hence, all interested are urged to join the cleanliness drive and dedicate one hour of voluntary service(shramdhan) to enhance the cleanliness in alignment with the Swachhta hi Seva campaign.

REGIONAL P F COMMISSIONER-II
REGIONAL OFFICE, CHIKKAMAGALURU

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari.
No.: EE/RDWS&SD/B/JE-1/JJM/Tender.Nofi/2023-24/1112 Dated:26.09.2023

E-tender Notification (KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Ballari hereby calls the e-tender for execution works under Jal Jeevan Mission,Head Sandur and Ballari Taluks works through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** for bidders who are registered by Public work department. The information regarding tenders will be made available in **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** website & Tender document download date **27.09.2023** The last date to receive the tender from eligible bidders is at 04.00 pm on **07.10.2023** Date of opening of Technical Bid is at 05.00 pm on **08.10.2023** and Pre-bid meeting is held at Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ballari, Above SBI Bank, Sudha Cross, Cantonment at 11.00 am on **03.10.2023.** For any tender related quarries or more information bidders can contact above said office or e-procurement help desk up to **03.10.2023** at 4.00 pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW & S Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/318/KSMCA/2023-24

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड सांचौर

क्रमांकः अअ / सांचोर / 2023-24 / 1535 दिनांकः 11/09/2023

निविदा सूचना संख्या 13 वर्ष 2023-24

NIB No.: PWD2324A2927

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रु. 340.00 लाख है के लिए ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन / ऑफलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

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सा. नि. वि. खण्ड सांचौर

MINORITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Directorate of Minorities, #16 C, Moulana Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasantha Nagara, Bengaluru-560052.
Ph No. 080-22535901/02, Help Line No: 8277799990,
Email:**directorgokdom@gmail.com** Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

No.: Dom/D/Budget Para-173/CR-23/2023-24 Date: 29-09-2023

Announcement of Short term Tender

Short term Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minority for training to Minority Residential PU College students for NEET, JEE, CET for the year 2023-24. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-procurement portal.

(1) Date of Tender Publication: **Date: 29.09.2023**, **(2)** Tender amount: **Rs. 800.00 lakhs**, **(3)** EMD amount: **Rs. 12 lakhs, (4)** Pre-bid meeting: **05.10.2023 at 11.30 am, (5)** Last date and time for submission of tender: **13.10.2023 By 5.30 pm, (6)** Date and time of technical bid opening : **16.10.2023 at 11.30 am, (7)** Date and time of financial bid opening: **19.10.2023 at 11.30 am, (8)** Place of tender opening and contact address: **Moulana Azad Bhavan, No.16 C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bangalore-52. (9)** Telephone number to be contact: 080-22535902, 080-22535912.

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1486/Zen/2023-24

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Mobile: 8884414268 E-mail: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com

No: A3/BBP/e-Tender/Feed/CR-1/2023-24 Date: 25-09-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited Re e-Tender for **Supply of Various Feeding Materials for the Captive Wild Animals Housed in Bannerghatta Biological Park** for one year from the date of agreement through e-Procurement Portal from the reputed Firms / Contractor.

Sl. No.	Particulars of Works	Approximate cost of the commodities put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD to be furnished (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Supply of Food Grains, Pulses, Feed etc.,	200.00	5.00
2	Supply of Green Grass (Napier / Guinea / Rhodes / Para / Anjan	270.00	6.75

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Proc **upto 16.00 Hrs. on or before 18-10-2023.** Tender will be Opened on **21-10-2023 at 11.30 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/1451/Adverto/2023-24

IOC board approves term loan guarantee

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Guarantee will enable subsidiary to raise funds from banks for its global treasury operations

Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) board on Friday approved issue of a corporate guarantee of up to $155 million against term loans availed by subsidiary finance firm IOC Global Capital Management IFSC Ltd.

Incorporated in IFSC, Gift City, Gujarat to carry out global treasury operations for the IOC Group, the subsidiary will now be able to raise funds from banks for its operations based on the guarantee.

Biogas JVs get nod

The board also approved IOC's plan to form 50:50 joint ventures each with EverEnviro Resource Management, and GPS Renewables to set up compressed biogas plants.

In another filing, IOC said Commissioner of Central Goods and Service Tax, Mumbai, has filed an appeal before CESTAT, Mumbai, pertaining to an April 2019 notice seeking ₹4,003 crore excise duty on ethanol used in Ethanol Blended Motor Spirit sold by IOC between March 2014 and December 2018.

TVS SCS sells 4.5% in TVS ILP for ₹51.3 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

R. Dinesh

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS) has sold 4.5% equity stake in associate firm TVS Industrial and Logistics Parks Pvt. Ltd. (TVS ILP) to U.K.-based Lingotto Investment Management LLP (Lingotto) owned by Exor N.V. for ₹51.30 crore.

Soon Lingotto will acquire a significant minority stake in TVS ILP. This secondary transaction took place at an enterprise value of ₹2,800 crore. After the sale, TVS SCS' stake in TVS ILP stands at 25.2%.

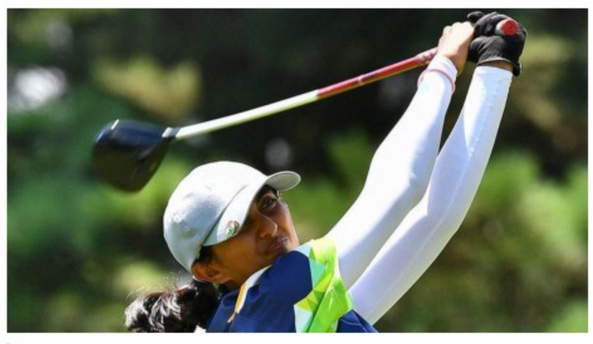
TVS ILP, meanwhile, announced a strategic partnership with Lingotto.

"We continue to hold a significant minority stake at TVS ILP and the strategic partnership with Lingotto should further enable TVS ILP to grow in its value-creation journey," said TVS SCS Chairman R. Dinesh.

"We are excited to join the company for accelerating their growth trajectory," said Lingotto Partner Ashish Kaushik.

IN CONTENTION

Aditi Ashok in tied second spot; Indian women lying third



Aditi Ashok was in tied second place, with a 11-under 133, one stroke behind Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol in the women's individual golf standings at the Asian Games on Friday. Pranavi Urs (139) was T10 and Avani Prashanth (141) T15 after the second round. India was third in women's team standings behind China and Thailand.

MAKING HISTORY

Manika becomes first Indian TT singles player to reach last eight

Manika Batra progressed to the quarterfinals of the women's table tennis competition, beating Thailand's Suthasini Sawettabut 11-7, 6-11, 12-10, 11-13, 12-10, 11-6 in a round-of-16 contest on Friday. She has become the first Indian singles player to make it to the last eight stage of the Asian Games in table tennis.

MAKING A SPLASH

Qin and Zhang delight as China dominates the swimming pool

Qin Haiyang completed a breaststroke treble for his fifth gold and Zhang Yufei, *in pic,* ended with six gold medals as China topped the final swimming medals table with 28 golds on a day it crossed the overall 100 gold medal mark. South Korea and Japan finished second and third in the pool with six and five gold medals.

PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION

Afghan boxer tests positive for two banned substances

An Afghan boxer has been provisionally suspended for failing a doping test at the Asian Games, the International Testing Agency (ITA) said, the first reported drugs case at the event. The 37-year-old Mohammad Khaibar Nooristani, tested positive for two banned substances. Both were anabolic steroids.

18 and counting: India has its best ever medal count

Teen sensation Palak lands a gold with a record to boot; Aishwary, Esha add two each to complete a medal quartet; Kusale disappoints with a below average show after being in the top-three initially

SHOOTING

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

The rifle hall at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre was witness to the highs of ecstasy and the lows of disbelief in Indian shooting simultaneously on Friday even as the country added two golds and three silvers to its medals tally from the sport.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar took his personal tally to four with a gold and silver each in the rifle 50m 3-Position on the day. Shooting's own tally went up to 18 medals so far in this edition – six gold, seven silver and five bronze – with two more days of action remaining, bettering the previous best of 14 medals in 2006 at Doha.

Also adding two silvers to take her personal medal count to four was Esha Singh, taking the team and individual second spot, the latter behind compatriot Palak in the 10m air pistol as India finally got a 1-2 in shooting.

Four medals in your maiden Asian Games, including two gold, at the age of 22 would be a matter of pride for anyone. For Tomar, it was just reward for the efforts the youngster has put in over the years. He took an individual silver with 459.7 points, having led to a team gold earlier in the day along with Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran for a new World Record total of 1769 points.

"We have been preparing for these competitions for a long time so it feels really nice. Coming here and winning medals, achieving my goals slowly, feels good. "Expectation *se to zyada hi hai par jitni mehnat aur training ki hai, us hisab se thik hai* (What I have achieved here is more than what I expected but considering the hard work and amount of training we did, not surprised)," a beaming Tomar told *The Hindu*.

Having started badly and struggling at seventh in the initial stages, Tomar pulled himself up gradually, climbing the ranks through prone before going all out in the standing section to get himself into the medal bracket.

At the other end Kusale, having been in the top-three all along and comfortably placed for a medal, shot a 7.6 on the 41st shot to drop from 1st to 5th – he still got a 10.5 and 10.1 in the next two shots, but the damage was done – and eventually be eliminated, finishing 4th behind China's Jiaming Tian.

"I don't remember, maybe years ago when I was just starting, never in competition," a poker-faced Kusale said about shooting such a low score.

"Feels bad, a lot, must have been some mistake by me only but I don't know what happened. But it's a game, will come back stronger the next time," he added, bemused.

"There was pressure, some doubts also because everyone else was doing well. Then I thought standing was left and I will do well in that, forgot everything and focused on the target and managed to get through," he explained.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Palak, the youngest Indian shooter here, was speechless after claiming gold in the 10m air pistol. That it came with a new Games record of 242.1 points only made it special even as Esha finished 2.4 points behind to take silver.

"It feels so great, I am not able to express the feeling in words. I don't think I am old enough to give any message to anyone but all I can say is if you work hard, everything will fall into place on the right path.

"I did expect a podium finish because I had trained hard for that but definitely not gold," she admitted.

On target: Swapnil, Aishwary Tomar and Akhil with their 50m Rifle 3 Positions men's team gold. *Right:* Palak finished on top in women's 10m air pistol. AP

Terrific trio: Divya, Esha and Palak took the second spot in 10m air pistol. PTI

Esha Singh and Aishwary Pratap. ANI & PTI

'Mixed' yet double prolific day for Indian tennis

Dual challenge: Myneni and Ramkumar found it tough to handle the Chinese Taipei duo of Jason and Hsu as well as the boisterous crowd during the men's doubles summit clash. PTI

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

India's Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan lost in the men's mixed doubles final 4-6, 4-6 against Chinese Taipei's Jason Jung and Hsu Yu-hsiou to finish with a silver medal here at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre on Friday.

Saketh had a chance to improve on his second-place finish from 2014 but it wasn't to be.

Ramkumar, who medalled for the first time in the Games, said, "The crowd didn't know when to shout and when not to shout, which was a little bit tough for both teams.

"Between the first and second serves and returns, it breaks the rhythm a lot. But that was the case for both of us. If they [crowd] could have been better, it could have been better for us."

Meanwhile, India's mixed doubles team of Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale advanced to the summit clash after beating Chinese Taipei's Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan in the semifinal here at the Hangzhou Olympic Tennis Centre.

After both teams were level after two sets, the Indians overcame the Taiwanese pair in the super tie breaks with the scoreline reading 6-1, 3-6, [10-4].

Hsu, who had just won the men's doubles gold around an hour ago, and Chan were broken in the fourth game of the match allowing India to take take control and win the opening set 6-1.

In the second set, the Taipei duo nearly broke Rutuja's serve in the fifth game, but they eventually came in the eighth game to help it take a 5-3 lead before they levelled the game at 1-1.

Rutuja, then, bounced back in the super tiebreak with a couple of crucial winners from the baseline as India received the Taipei serves to take it 10-4 and book its place in the final.

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Friday:

Athletics

Men: 20km race walk final: Vikash (fifth); 400m (round 1): Ajmal (second in Heat 2, enters final);.

Women: 20km race walk final: Priyanka (fifth); 400m (round 1): Aishwarya (second in Heat 1, enters final);
Hammer (final): Tanya (seventh), Rachna (ninth); Shot put (final): Kiran (**Bronze**), Manpreet (fifth).

Basketball 3x3

Men: Pool C: lost to China 15-18.

Basketball

Women: Group A: bt Mongolia 68-62.

Badminton

Team (quarterfinals): Men: bt Nepal 3-0; **Women:** lost to Thailand 0-3.

Boxing

Women's 57kg (round-of-16): Parveen bt Zichun (Chn).
Men's 80kg (round-of-16): Lakshya lost to Omurbek (Kgz);
Women's 50kg (quarterfinals): Nikhat bt Hanan (Jor).

Chess

Team (round 1):
Men: bt Mongolia.
Women: bt Philippines.

Golf

Round 2: Men: Individual: Anirban (T9), Shubhankar (T21), Khalin and Chawrasia (T29); Team: T6.
Women: Individual: Aditi (T2), Pranavi (T10), Avani (T15); Team: Third.

Hockey

Women: Pool A: bt Malaysia 6-0.

Shooting

Women's 10m air pistol: Individual (final): Palak (**Gold**), Esha (**Silver**);
Team: **Silver** (Palak, Esha, Divya).
Men's 50m rifle 3 positions: Individual (final): Aishwary Pratap (**Silver**), Swapnil (fourth); Team: **Gold** (Aishwary Pratap, Swapnil, Akhil).

Squash

Team (semifinals): Women: loses to Hong Kong 1-2, **bags bronze**; **Men:** bt Malaysia 2-0.

Swimming

Men (finals): 200m backstroke: Advait (seventh); 200m butterfly: Sajan (fifth).

Table Tennis

Singles (round-of-16): Men: Chih-yuan (Tpe) bt Sharath 4-3; Chuqin (Chn) bt Sathiyan 4-0;.
Women: Manika bt Suthasini (Tha) 4-2.
Doubles (round-of-16):
Men: Manush & Manav bt Koen & Yong (Sgp) 3-2; Zhendong & Chuqin (Chn) bt Sharath & Sathiyan 3-0.
Women: Sutirtha & Ayhika bt Wanwisa & Jinnipa (Tha) 3-0; Harimoto & Kihara (Jpn) bt Sreeja & Diya 3-0.

Tennis

Men's doubles final: Myneni & Ramkumar lose to Jung & Hsu (Tpe) 4-6, 4-6, **bags silver.**
Mixed doubles semifinal: Rutuja & Bopanna bt Hao-ching & Hsu (Tpe) 6-1, 3-6, [10-4].

Medals Table

Country	G	S	B	T
China	105	63	32	200
Japan	27	35	37	99
S. Korea	26	28	48	102
India	**8**	**12**	**13**	**33**
Thailand	8	3	9	20
Uzbekistan	7	10	15	32
Hong Kong	5	13	18	36
Chinese Taipei	5	6	9	20
Iran	3	10	10	23
N. Korea	3	6	4	13

Kiran ends India's 72-year wait for a women's shot put medal

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

India opened its account in athletics with a historic bronze on the first day of track & field action as Kiran Baliyan picked up the country's first medal in women's shot put in 72 years on Friday.

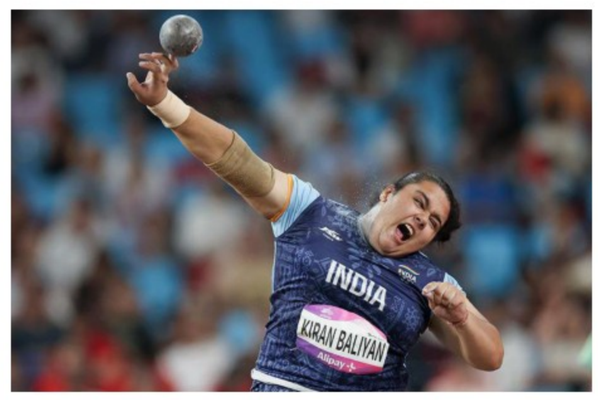
Kiran threw to a distance of 17.36m in her third attempt to finish third behind the Chinese duo of reigning Olympic champion Lijiao Gong and Jiayuan Song.

They were also the only three athletes to cross the 17m mark, Gong taking gold with a massive 19.58m throw.

For someone who took to the sport accidentally and wasn't serious about till a few years ago, Kiran overshadowed senior pro Manpreet Kaur completely with all her throws barring one going further than Manpreet's best effort of 16.25m that saw her finish fifth.

"I did not come here thinking I will create history or anything. In fact, I did not even know of this record or such a long gap till now. I only wanted to give my best performance.

"I knew I was in a good position when I saw the start list yesterday. I am not very happy with my performance, this is not my best but for getting a medal for the country and for athletics on the first day itself, I am satisfied," said Kiran.



Woman of steel! Kiran put on a great display to land her maiden Asian Games medal. GETTY IMAGES

Accidental entry

The 24-year old was candid about not being too serious while getting into the sport.

"There was a North Zone meet in Meerut in 2014 and my name was entered accidentally instead of someone else, I used to throw javelin for fun earlier. My coach told me to go ahead, there were three participants and I finished third. That's how shot put started for me," she laughed, crediting her coach Robin Singh for getting her into the sport.

Relaxed and nonchalant, Kiran admitted she was a little nervous at the outset but not about her own performance.

Earlier in the evening, Aishwarya Mishra equalled her season best of 52.73 seconds to finish second in her heat behind Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser and qualify for the 400m final while Himanshi Malik failed to advance.

Among men, Mohd. Ajmal advanced with 45.76s while Mohd. Anas finished third in a disappointing 46.29s to be eliminated.

In women's hammer throw, India's Tanya Chaudhary and Rachna Kumari finished seventh and ninth respectively.

Vikash Singh finished fifth in 1:27:33 in the men's 20km race walk while Sandeep Kumar was disqualified after three warnings. Priyanka Goswami also finished fifth in 1:43:07.

Indian women clinch bronze, men to contest for the gold medal

Joshna-Anahat-Tanvi trio goes down fighting to Hong Kong in the semifinals; the Ghosal-led men's team knocks out defending champion Malaysia in the last-four clash, meets Pakistan

ASIAN GAMES SQUASH

Sports Bureau
HANGZHOU

India's impressive show in team events continued with the men and women securing a place on the podium in squash at the Asian Games here on Friday.

The Indian trio of Joshna Chinappa, Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna finished its campaign with a bronze medal after a 1-2 loss to Hong Kong in the semifinals.

India started on a losing note with Tanvi falling to a 6-11, 7-11, 3-11 defeat against Chan Sin Yuk. Joshna levelled the tie for India, drawing from her experience to secure a close 7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8 win over Ho Tze Lok.

India's fate in the event came down to 15-year-old Anahat, who went up against Lee Ka Yi in the decider.

While she managed to save eight match points against her opponent who is almost twice her age, she went down in a 8-11, 7-11, 10-12 loss.

India's bronze in Hangzhou follows a silver medal in the 2018 edition of the tournament in Jakarta. Both medals came after loses to the same opponent – Hong Kong.

Memorable day: Anahat, Tanvi, Dipika and Joshna finished on the podium. PTI

Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh and Mahesh Mangaonkar made it to the final after beating defending champion Malaysia 2-0 in the men's team semifinal.

Abhay overcame an injury scare to give India a winning start with a 11-3, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6 triumph over Muhammed Addeen.

Veteran Ghosal's rich vein of form continued as he overcame a stiff challenge from Eain Yow Ng in a 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 11-3 win.

India will take on Pakistan in the summit clash. The teams met once in the pool stage where Pakistan beat India 2-1, with Ghosal being the lone Indian winner.

The men's side won bronze in the 2018 edition in Jakarta and will hope to ascend the podium top step on Saturday.

Nikhat assures herself of a medal, books a ticket to Paris

ASIAN GAMES BOXING

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

"Finally!"

Nikhat Zareen exclaimed as she unfurled the 'ticket to Paris 2024 Olympics!' placard handed to go with an imagery to mark her achievement. It was hard to mask her thrill in seeing the 'ticket' even if it wasn't the real one. She looked at it, placed a kiss on it, and later asked if she could even keep it.

Finally, Nikhat's ultimate dream of winning an Olympic gold medal now has a pathway. The 27-year-old became the first Indian boxer to confirm a Paris 2024 Olympic quota by punching her way past Jordan's Hanan Nassar in the women's 50kg category here at the Hangzhou Gymnasium on Friday. In the process, she also assured herself of an Asian Games medal on her debut.

She had three rounds of 180 seconds to get the job done but she needed just 127 seconds to dismantle the Jordanian Hanan, described as a ballerina disguised as a boxer, due to her elegant feet movements.

But, her dancing feet were cramped together with Nikhat cornering her with an aggressive approach.

While having avoided heavy blows until the 60-second mark, Hanan looked to push up on the attack. Nikhat faked with her left arm before unleashing a powerful right, which landed square on her jaw to rock her. The dazed Hanan would have seen the lights the size of the full moon on the night of the mid-autumn festival here in China as the referee called for the first standing eight count.

Take that! Nikhat lands a blow on Hanan in the women's 50kg quarterfinals. PTI

> I have got the quota and now I will be fully focused on winning that gold medal. Hopefully, I will win and make my country proud
> NIKHAT

Upon resumption, Nikhat wouldn't relent. She would follow it up with more hard-hitting lefts and rights until the referee called for another eight count and then another one 10 seconds later before calling off the fight and award the win to the Indian on a technical knockout. "No," said Nikhat when asked if she was surprised by the outcome of the fight. I saw her previous bouts. My strategy was to go direct with leading right hands. That's what I did and I got RSC and won in the first round. And hopefully, I will keep performing like this in the next couple of matches."

With one of the two objectives ticked off, Nikhat can focus on adding another gold medal to her burgeoning trophy cabinet.

"I am happy to win and confirm the medal and the Olympic quota. I am happy with my performance in this championship.

"I have two more [possible] bouts and will give my best. I have got the quota and now I will be fully focused on winning that gold medal. Hopefully, I will win the gold medal and make my country proud," she said.

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indian players/teams who will compete on Saturday (all times IST):

Basketball 3x3: Qualification to quarterfinal: **Men:** vs. Iran (10.55 a.m.); **Women:** vs. Malaysia (1 p.m.).
Athletics: Men: Long jump (qualifying groups A and B): Sreeshankar, Jeswin (6.15 a.m.); 1500m (round 1, heats): Ajay, Jinson (7.05 a.m.); 400m (final): Ajmal (5.40 p.m.); 10,000m (final): Karthik, Gulveer (5.50 p.m.); **Women:** Heptathlon events: Swapna, Nandini (6.30 a.m.); 100m hurdles (heats): Jyothi, Nithya (6.30 a.m.); 400m (final): Aishwarya (5.30 p.m.).
Badminton: Men's team semifinals: vs. South Korea, 2.30 p.m.
Boxing: Women (quarterfinals): 54kg: Preeti vs. Shekerbekova (Kaz), 11.30 a.m.; 75kg: Lovlina vs. Seong (Kor), 12.15 p.m. **Men:** 57kg (round-of-16): Sachin vs. Turki (Kuw), 1 p.m.; +92kg (quarterfinal): Narender vs. Iman (IRI), 2.15 p.m. 71kg (quarterfinal): Nishant vs. Okazawa (Jpn), 6.30 p.m.
Chess: Team (round 2): Men and women, 12.30 p.m.
Equestrian: Eventing team and individual: Apurva, Vikas, Ashish (5.30 a.m.).
Golf: Round 3: Men's individual and team; Women's individual and team, 4 a.m.
Hockey: Men: Pool A: vs. Pakistan (6.15 p.m.).
Shooting: 10m air pistol mixed team (qualification round and medal matches): Divya, Sarabjot Singh; Men's trap (qualification individual and team phase 1): Kynan, Prithviraj, Zoravar; Women's trap (qualification individual and team phase 1): Rajeshwari, Manisha, Preeti (6.30 a.m.).
Squash: Men's team (gold medal match): vs. Pakistan (1 p.m.).
Table tennis: Singles and doubles matches, 10.15 a.m.
Tennis: Mixed doubles final: Rutuja & Bopanna vs En-shuo & Huang (Tpe), not before 1 p.m.
Weightlifting: Women: 49kg: Mirabai (12.30 p.m.); 55kg: Bindyarani (4.30 p.m.).

Two gold medals around my neck on October 5 would be perfect

I try to control what I can and put myself in the best position to win both the team and individual golds, but there are things not in my control; we have to produce our best and let destiny take over

INTERVIEW

Saurav Ghosal

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

His name is synonymous with Indian squash and largely responsible for India finally looking at the sport as a genuine medal contender at the highest level of competition.

At 37, Saurav Ghosal continues to be its flagbearer and shows no signs of slowing down.

Having led the Indian team to a hard-fought win against powerhouse Malaysia and a spot in the final here, Ghosal sat down for an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*.

What keeps Saurav Ghosal still going?

Firstly, it's just being able to go to training every day and wanting to be a better player.

If I didn't have that motivation to be a better player every time I went to a squash court or to the gym, it would be very difficult for me to compete at the highest level and if I didn't do that, I wouldn't be playing.

Secondly, I want to do things which will enhance my legacy a little bit. So winning a medal at CWG last year was a big thing, hopefully winning here will be big, being in the top-5 in PSA rankings would be huge – those are things that keep me going. There are things where I can still push the envelope a bit more for Indian squash and so long as my body and mind feel up to the battle of doing that, I will do it.

The day I feel I don't want to push any more, it will be over.

Is an individual Asiad gold the missing piece in your cabinet?

Of course it's missing but when I started, I never thought I would win all that I did so I have to be grateful for all that.

If I win it this year it will be brilliant, the missing piece as you say. I try to control what I can and try to put myself in the best possible position to win both the team and individual golds. But there are things not in my control and then we have to produce our best and let destiny take over, that's all I can ask of myself and of ourselves as a team as well.

Determined: Ghosal will put in his all in his quest for an individual Asiad gold. GETTY IMAGES

You were a three-time national champion by the time Anahat Singh was born. Does it make you feel old?

Gosh, I hadn't realised that! We are from different generations and we do a lot of things differently, but, overall, no I don't think so. I think I feel I am young as well in terms of things I do, I don't genuinely feel 37. She has no airs or attitude, which is great. And it's good to be around different age groups of people in the team – variety is always great in life and everyone generally gets along very well.

Does playing for India come with extra pressure compared to playing on the tour?

For sure. Playing for India and playing individually, the adrenaline is more, it's just natural.

There is a responsibility with me being the senior most person and the best way I can lead the team is by doing that and winning my matches and setting the right example for everyone. We have different characters in the team so you have to try and manage those characters and try and bring their best out in that environment. It is a privilege to be in this position and I am not going to complain about it.

What would you like to take away from this Asian Games, most likely your last?

Well, of course I want to win two golds, that's a realistic target. It's very difficult but possible.

The venue, the village, the organisation of it all has been spot on till now and I hope it continues in the same vein. In my ideal world, two golds in my neck on October 5 would be perfect.

South Africa has the talent and form to realise its potential and get rid of the 'choker' tag

WC COUNTDOWN

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Until South Africa began to crumble consistently at cricket's big moments, the word 'choker' would bring to the mind an image of a necklace worn tightly around a woman's neck. The tag chokers has clung tightly to the South African team for a long time.

And they have lived up to that tag, more often than not. For all their talent and superstars, the Proteas haven't yet won a World Cup, in any format. They haven't even made a final, in fact.

They have reached the semifinals four times, though. The most memorable of them was in 1999 at Edgbaston, which ended in a tie despite an incredible 16-ball 31 not out by Lance Klusener, who had an incredible tournament.

In 2015 at Auckland, South Africa was denied a final berth by an out-of-the-world knock for New Zealand by the South Africa-born Grant Elliott.

ACE IN THE PACK

Heinrich Klaasen: He could play Lance Klusener's role with the bat in South Africa's World Cup campaign of 1999. Klaasen, who showed how dangerous a batter he is during a stunning 83-ball 174 against Australia in the Centurion ODI recently, is one destroyer the bowlers wouldn't be too keen to run into.

After all those heartbreaks, maybe it's finally time for South Africa to realise its potential. This team in India looks good enough to be the dark horse. Temba Bavuma's men have the talent, the experience and the form.

South Africa has one of the strongest and most powerful batting line-ups in the competition.

Quinton de Kock, who has been one of the world's finest batters in white-ball cricket for a decade, will be keen to make his last ODI tournament special, Bavuma averages 79.62 in ODIs this year, Rassie van der Dussen has a career ODI average of 56.78, and Aiden Markram was the player-of-the-series against Australia in South Africa's last series before the World Cup.

Then there is the explosive power of David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen, not to mention the quality of Reeza Hendricks.

Marco Jensen, the 2.06m tall seaming all-rounder, continues to grow taller in reputation and adds further firepower to the middle-order.

Quicks Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi have the skills and the experience in Indian conditions, while in Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi the team has two spinners who could make important contributions on the kinds of pitches the tournament would offer.

The young fast bowler Gerald Coetzee is an exciting prospect and has the pace to hurry the batters even on the flat Indian tracks. The injury to Anrich Nortje is a blow.

The IPL experience of many of the key players should also come in handy, as South Africa tries to take the choker off its neck.

South Africa

World Cup numbers

	M	W	L	T	NR
Overall	64	38	23	2	1
H2H against teams in the 2023 edition					
vs. Sri Lanka	6	4	1	1	0
vs. Netherlands	3	3	0	0	0
vs. India	5	3	2	0	0
vs. Pakistan	5	3	2	0	0
vs. England	7	3	4	0	0
vs. Bangladesh	4	2	2	0	0
vs. Australia	6	2	3	1	0
vs. New Zealand	8	2	6	0	0
vs. Afghanistan	1	1	0	0	0

The South Africa caravan

Oct. 7	vs. Sri Lanka	Delhi	2 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Australia	Lucknow	2 p.m.
Oct. 17	vs. Netherlands	Dharamsala	2 p.m.
Oct. 21	vs. England	Mumbai	2 p.m.
Oct. 24	vs. Bangladesh	Mumbai	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	vs. Pakistan	Chennai	2 p.m.
Nov. 1	vs. New Zealand	Pune	2 p.m.
Nov. 5	**vs. India**	**Kolkata**	**2 p.m.**
Nov. 10	vs. Afghanistan	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.

Europe powers to a five-point lead

RYDER CUP

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Europe led the USA 6.5-1.5 at the Ryder Cup in Rome after saving three fourballs matches late on Friday to deny an American fightback after the morning's foursomes 4-0 whitewash.

The results: Europe leads USA 6.5-1.5 (**Foursomes:** Rahm & Hatton bt Scheffler & Burns 4 & 3; Hovland & Aberg bt Homa & Harman 4 & 3; Lowry & Straka bt Fowler & Morikawa 2 & 1; McIlroy & Fleetwood bt Schauffele & Cantlay 2 & 1. **Fourballs:** Hovland & Hatton-Thomas & Spieth, Rahm & Hojgaard-Scheffler & Koepka, MacIntyre & Rose-Homa & Clark (USA) (all halved); McIlroy & Fitzpatrick-Morikawa & Schauffele 5 & 3).

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In search of the best designer

State governments must commission public and infrastructure projects through open competitions to get the most out of the country's urban planners, says **Rahul Kadri**

WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY | OCTOBER 2, 2023

India is in the throes of a major urban transformation, an endeavour that promises to reshape our nation's future.

The past few years have seen a slew of large-scale urban development and public infrastructure projects commissioned and/or completed in our country, which include the Sabarmati Riverfront development in Ahmedabad, the Dharavi slum redevelopment in Mumbai, and, of course, the much-celebrated redevelopment of the Central Vista in New Delhi.

These projects already have or will transform the face of their respective cities and have a tremendous impact on people's lives. They also have the potential to redefine urban living for years to come and catalyse economic development. However, some of these projects are based on questionable design and urban planning practices, which begs the question: are the processes of commissioning these projects necessarily effective towards realising the aspirations for which they were conceptualised? Are we harnessing the best design talent and expertise that our country has to offer?

Investing in heritage

Good public and social infrastructure in our neighbourhoods and cities can bring people joy, make our cities better, safer, and more sustainable, and create a better experience for citizens.

Many State governments and planning authorities in India are continuing to invest large capital to upgrade urban infrastructure.

Last month, the National Housing Bank (NHB) operationalised the ₹10,000-crore Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) aimed at supplementing the efforts of State governments for infrastructure projects in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Permissible activities under the UIDF include a 'comprehensive area development project', under which five types of works can be sanctioned – transit-oriented development (TOD), heritage conservation, preparation of local area plan for decongestion, planning of greenfield areas and setting up of parks and open gyms.

I believe that these efforts to create better, sustainable and safer cities are commendable. Yet, it is imperative to recognise that without proper vision and thought, consultation with professionals, and processes for commissioning, the risk of futility and mediocrity looms large, with projects not necessarily effective at addressing the challenges or realising the aspirations for which they were set out.

For instance, the Mumbai Coastal Road Project was conceptualised to address the city's transportation challenges and over the last four years, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has already spent over ₹12,000 crore on it.

However, it will not make life any easier for the vast majority of Mumbai citizens since it will primarily benefit a minuscule percentage of the city's population that owns cars.

A view of Dharavi against the backdrop of skyscrapers in Mumbai.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Story of landmarks

Some of the best-designed buildings and projects in India, such as the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, the Chambal Riverfront project in Kota, Rajasthan, the Buckingham Canal project in Chennai, and the National War Memorial in Delhi, were commissioned through design competitions and have, over time, become significant parts of their respective city's culture and landmarks.

Globally, projects such as the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore, and the High Line in New York City were also commissioned similarly and today shine as success stories for their cities and people.

Governments in India, whether at the centre or at the state level, need to undertake a similar approach to the process of designing and building infrastructure for all upcoming public and infrastructure projects – open public competitions to attract some of the best designers, architects, and urban planners, and therefore, the best ideas, designs, and solutions.

This will serve as a great opportunity for several practitioners from across the country to participate in such competitions and work collectively with the government to build world-class landmarks and improve the country's infrastructure and cities.

The Council of Architecture (COA) has laid out guidelines for organising such competitions. These guidelines are set out to ensure that competitions are fair and transparent and safeguard the interest of both – the promoter and architects.

Invitations and dismissal

While some governments and planning authorities across the country have conducted design competitions and/or invited respected practitioners to submit proposals for public projects in the recent past, there is more that needs to be done.

For instance, the Amaravati capital complex and city planning project, even though it stands shelved today, presents a distressing example of how governments can do lip service to the idea of consultation and engagement with the professional community.

Expert recommendations on the feasibility of the project were dismissed at multiple stages, and there were frequent invitations, appointments, dismissals and reappointments of professionals that were seemingly politically motivated.

In another instance, the BMC invited architects and urban designers to submit proposals for improving streets in Mumbai in 2019. Five design firms were selected as winners. However, in January 2021, the firms were notified that their services were not required any more. The BMC has since invited tenders for a project along similar lines.

World Architecture Day is a timely reminder that our city's future is inextricably linked to the spaces we create today. The places we inhabit, the structures we encounter daily, and the cityscapes we navigate shape our experiences and our collective identity.

It is within this context that we must raise a vital issue that concerns all citizens - the need for reform in the way public architecture and city infrastructure projects are commissioned.

The writer is partner and Principal, IMK Architects.

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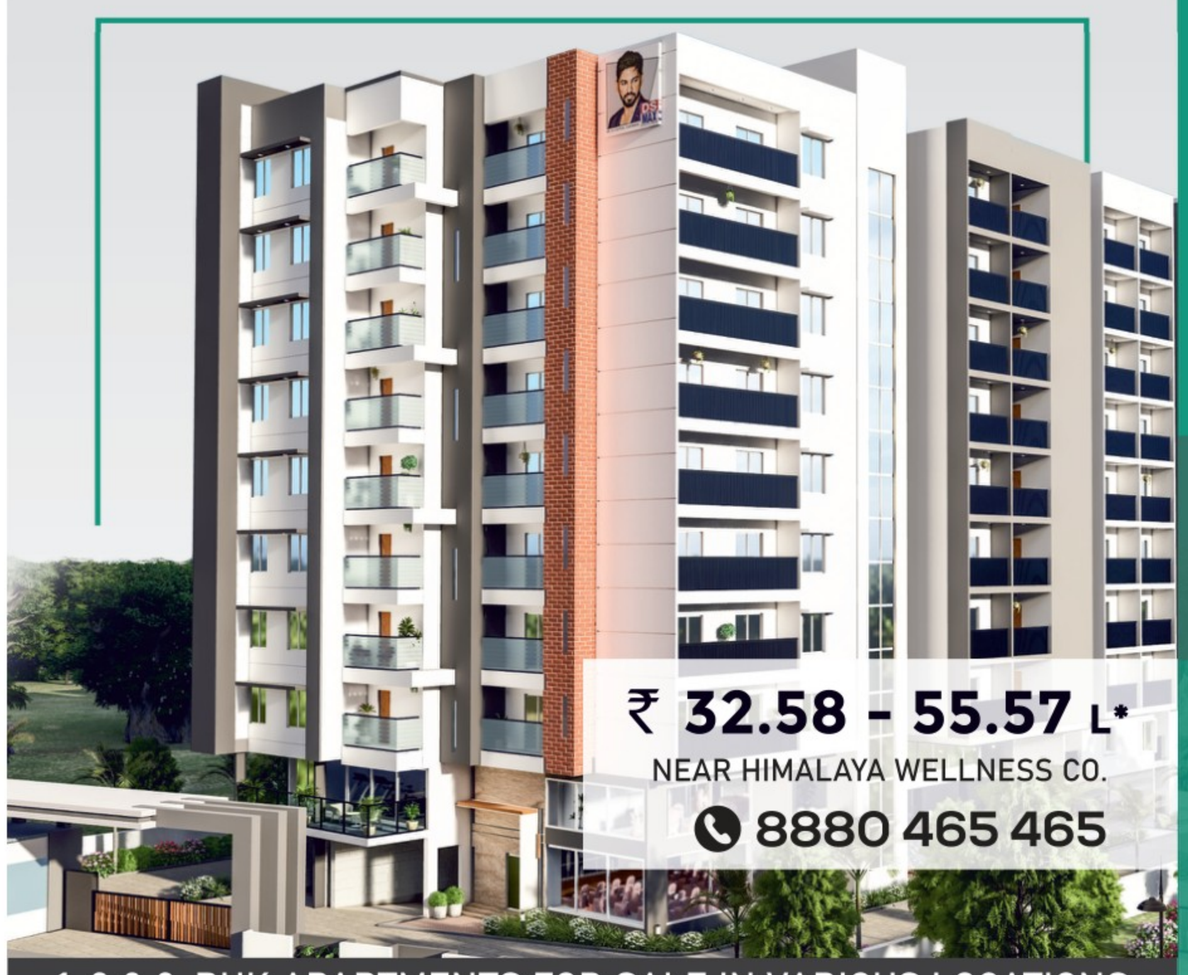

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BG-BGE

Bas de Leede out to add to his family's and the Netherlands' cricketing history

The 23-year-old played a pivotal role in his team's victory in the World Cup qualifying match against Scotland, by smashing a 92-ball 123 to go with a five-wicket haul

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

De Leede is a noted surname in Dutch cricket. Tim, the father, played three World Cups for the Netherlands – in 1996, 2003 and 2007 – and was part of the only two match victories at the quadrennial extravaganza. Twenty-seven years after Tim first came to India, son Bas is here to add to both his family's and country's cricketing history.

"Just being here and feeling the energy is pretty cool," Bas told *The Hindu* during the Netherlands' preparatory camp here. "When I speak to my dad, he loves looking back. Obviously, the Dutch don't have a great record in the tournament. We're hoping to change that."

Going by his team's performances in the last 12 months, there is room for optimism. At the 2022 T20 World Cup, the Netherlands beat South Africa in stunning fashion, finished above Test nations in Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, and earned a direct slot for the 2024 T20 World Cup. In the WC Qualifier earlier in 2023, Netherlands beat both West Indies and Scotland to punch its ticket.

Young star: The Netherlands will look up to Bas de Leede's all-round ability to make an impact in the World Cup. X/ICC

De Leede's was the central role in the victory over Scotland. Required to chase down 277 inside 44 overs to earn qualification, the 23-year-old smashed a 92-ball 123 to go with bowling figures of five for 52. Only four other cricketers in ODI history had scored a century and taken five wickets in an innings.

"During the game, I wasn't thinking much about it. After the game, we had a couple of drinks and then it kind of sank in. Now, I'm just looking forward to getting more opportunities against the best in the world."

In football and hockey, the Dutch are known for being tactical revolutionaries, with the most famous being Rinus Michels and Johan Cruyff's Total Football concept. De Leede doesn't believe cricket quite offers the space for such experiments, though he and his teammates have made the odd try.

"Even from before the Qualifier, we have been working on being better in certain aspects that others may not look at... like running a lot of twos. But, in the end, I feel the team that does the basics the best will play the best cricket."

Sadly, however deep an imprint Netherlands manages to leave in India, fans back home cannot witness it live, for there is no broadcast deal in place.

"That's how small the sport is. It's not growing at the moment. But I think there's a real possibility [to grow] with the performances we've put in. We have to keep performing and we'll hopefully get more attention."

ISL-10

NEUFC blanks Chennaiyin, records first win

GUWAHATI: NorthEast United FC cruised to a 3-0 win against Chennaiyin FC at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Friday to register its first victory of the tenth season of the Indian Super League.

Chennaiyin slipped to its second loss in as many games.

Parthib Gogoi, Phalguni Singh and Asheer Akhtar scored one goal each for the Highlanders, who were on top of their game..

The result:

NEUFC 3 (Gogoi 42, Phalguni 48, Asheer 90+10) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

Mo Bobat joins RCB as Director of Cricket

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) appointed Mo Bobat as the Director of Cricket ahead of IPL 2024, the franchise announced on Friday. Bobat worked with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for 12 years, and as the Performance Director since 2019.

Bobat will oversee all talent recruitment and performance plans at RCB.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Veersh shatters meet record

MANGALURU: P. Veersh created a new boys' under-16 80m hurdles meet record in the Karnataka State junior and under-23 athletics meet at Mangala Stadium on Friday. Veersh (11.1s) erased the old mark held by K.R. Tejal (11.7s, 2022).

Other meet records: Boys: U-23: Long jump: Purushotham, 7.41m (OMR: S. Arya, 7.31m, 2022).

Girls: U-20: 1,500m: C. Priyanka, 4:37.94s (OMR: Shraddharani Desai, 4:42.0s, 2012); **U-16: 2,000m:** Charishma, 6:51.64s (OMR: B.U. Bhavya 6:53.2s, 2019); **300m:** Reethu Shre, 40.95s (OMR:

Dhruv Sarda.

Unnathi Aiyappa, 41.3s, 2021).

Good show by Sarda

BENGALURU: Dhruv Sarda moved up the leaderboard with a good show on Day 5 of the ARC 32nd National Tenpin bowling championship at Amoeba on Friday. Sarda scored a total pinfall of 1259 at an impressive average of 209.9 to climb to second place.

R. Kishan of Karnataka topped the table with a total pinfall of 5305 at an average of 221.04 in 24 games. Kishan leads Delhi's Sarda by 382 pins. Shabbir Dhankot (4779) and Akaash Ashok Kumar (4727) are in third and fourth positions respectively.

In the women's category, N. Sumathi (2111 total pinfall) leads at the end of Round 1. She is followed by B. Anukriti (2096) and Anuradha Sarda (2028).